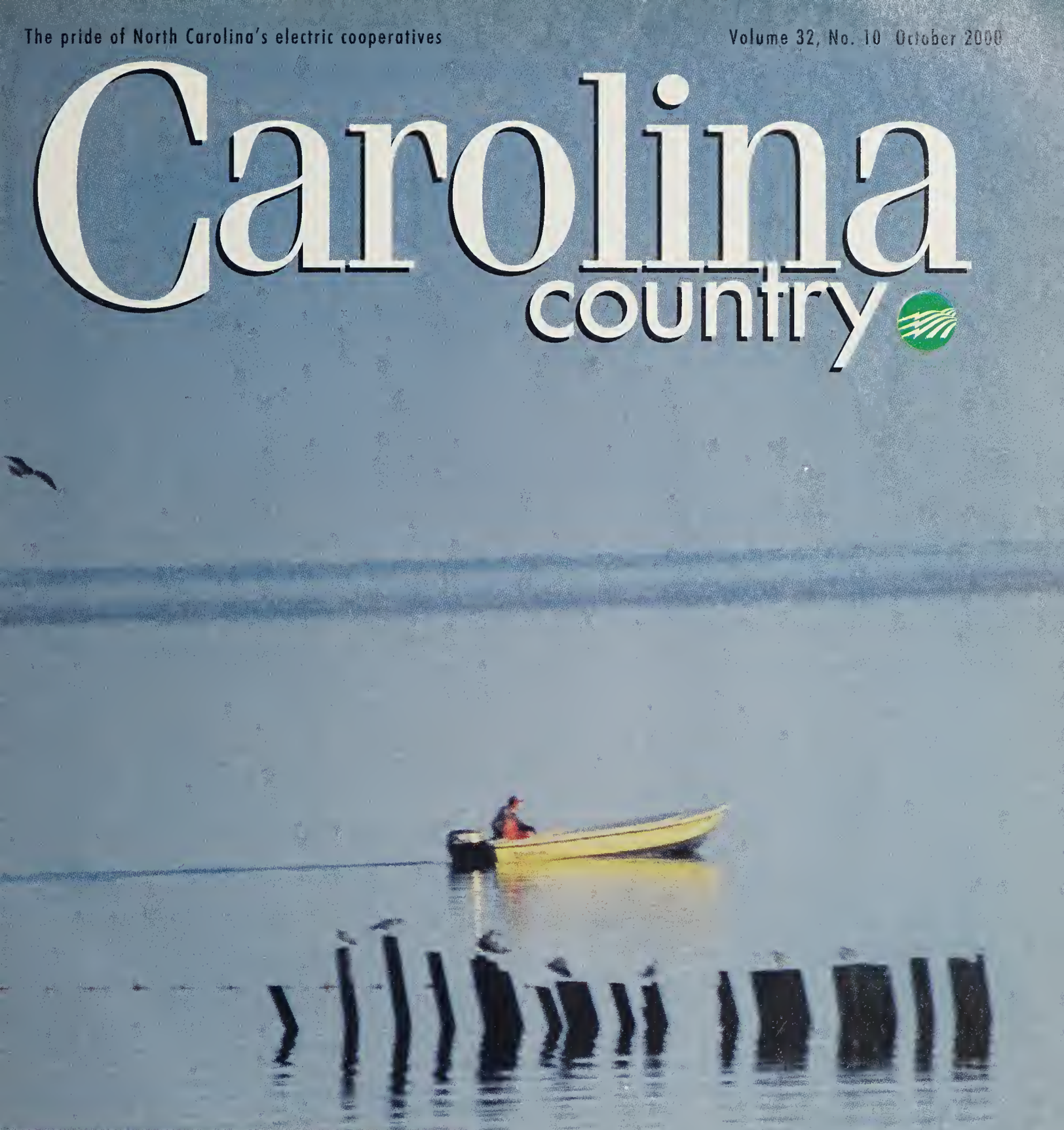
The pride of North Carolina's electric cooperatives

Volume 32, No. 10 October 2000

Carolina country



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Fishing Stories

A voter's guide to candidates in the Nov. 7 election — pages 15-22

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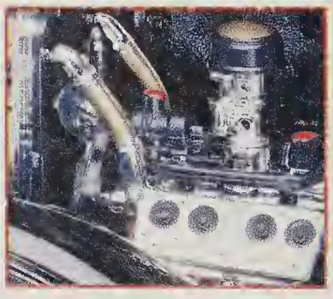

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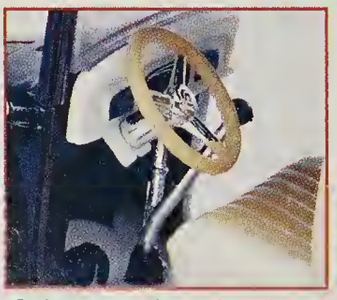

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Renee Coates Scheidt with 4-H Board President Bob Rube

Linda Wheeler Hayes with 4-H Board President Bob Rube

Malcolm Hawkins with State 4-H Leader Mike Davis

Partner Award Blue Cross and Blue Shield of N.C. represented by Brad Wilson

State Agricultural Program Winner

Andy Burlington
Pitt County

Honored Guests
Rep. Vernon James (L)
Edmund Aycock (R)
4-H Reunion 2000

State Home Environment Presentation Gold Medalists
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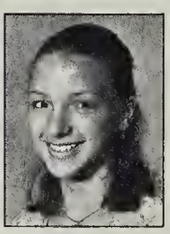

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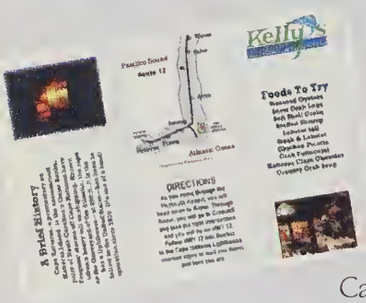
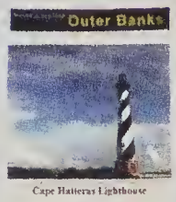
first person

Brochures by 8th graders





By:
Timmy Smith
&
Brant West

Randy Bright's 8th grade North Carolina history class at Washington County Union School in Roper uses Carolina Country as part of its lesson plan each month. Recently, the class designed brochures for various North Carolina attractions and businesses.

For information about using Carolina Country in 8th grade classrooms, teachers may send e-mail (no phone calls, please) to Carolina.country@ncemcs.com

Autumn in Stokes County
Photography by Gerald Yokely, 7599 Hollyberry Lane, Tobaccoville, NC 27050

More weather sayings

My mother's stepfather, Capt. Rob Ireland, was caretaker of the Pamlico River lighthouse (1870-1885). She (Alice Lupton Mayo, 1889-1918) often heard him repeat the old wives' weather prediction poem: "Rainbow at night, sailors delight. Rainbow in the morning, sailors take warning."

My father, Wiley S. Mayo Sr., said that a fiery-red color in the north during March and April early evenings often meant hail (the sun was reflecting on the hail).

I have said many times, "If it rains in the sunshine today, it will rain again tomorrow."

Mrs. Gerry Mayo
Beveridge

What can you do about deer and rabbits in your garden?

We published a dozen answers to this question in the September magazine. Here are some that are not similar to those. To see all the advice, go to our Web site at CarolinaCountry.com and look for "Your Guide To . . ."

1) Rabbit and deer repellent: Blend well two to three eggs. Pour into it a gallon of water. Spray plants. Holds for about two weeks unless rain washes it off. Re-spray as often as needed. Works well in Carolina and California. I've done it in both places.

2) Deer and rabbit fence: Available commercially. It is a 6-foot wire that has small mesh at bottom and larger mesh at top. Drive in 10-foot "T" posts with a post pounder. Attach "deer and rabbit" wire, plus two strands of barbless wire at top to make it 8 feet high. This does the trick well. Eight-foot gates are easy to construct using elbows, Ts, pipe and wire. We just fenced in five acres.

W. Boone Mora
Camarillo, Calif.
(formerly of Jackson, N.C.)

My home is on a small farm in Washington, NC. We do not let people hunt, and we have no outside dogs.

I planted a garden this year. I ran string all around it, and tied groceries bags on it. The noise they made when the wind blew kept the deer away. Their feet prints came up to the string and stopped. I plan to make streamers to put up this year so it will look better.

It did not stop the rabbits.

Patricia Boyd
Plymouth

I lived on the edge of a wooded area of over 100 acres with streams and wet weather runs. We had a deer family that traveled through our yard, both front and back. There are no open fields for 500 yards north and south, or one mile west and east.

One year I reseeded our back yard with white clover, including 5 to 10 feet around my garden. After this, our vegetables were not bothered. The clover was always "mowed" by our four-legged friends.

Charles Garrette
Ashland, Va.
Halifax EMC member

Your Favorite Funny Stories

A boy thing

I was canning beans a couple of weeks ago and babysitting my two precious grandchildren, ages 3 and 7. I was boiling my lids, and my grandson looked at me and said, "Nanny, I want to ask you something? Why are you cooking them lids?"

Jean Thomas
Morganton
Rutherford EMC member

Two brooms

There were two brooms who met in a broom closet and fell in love. They were planning a wedding. But one day the Bride broom told the Groom broom she was expecting a little swish broom. "How can that be," he said. "We haven't even swept together yet."

Hazel Bailey O'Neal
Rockingham
Pee Dee EMC member

The power of a box fan

Recently I was in Wal-Mart and purchased an $11 box fan. Once my newly purchased jewel and I got home, I immediately commenced to show it off. I call it a "jewel" because of the fond memories it shines on me once its power is turned on.

My grandmother lived in a two-story farmhouse in Macon, N.C. I remember so well the sound and the breeze of the box fans she had located throughout the house. On hot summer nights the fan would sing me a lullaby to sleep. After a hot summer morning working in the garden, my grandmother and I would shell butter beans and shuck corn in front of a box fan. So you can imagine the old and new stories that were told during this rich time.

To some I know I sound silly calling a box fan a "jewel." But to me, my $11 purchase is worth a million dollars in memories.

Jessica L. Saunders
Macon
Halifax EMC member

Looking for the rest of the song

If someone knows the rest of this song that my mom used to sing to me, please let me know. I can only remember these two lines.

"In a little town of Knoxville, I used to live and dwell. In a little town of Knoxville, I owned a flour mill."

Louise L. Craig
5745 Buzz Lowman Street
Connelly Springs, NC 28612

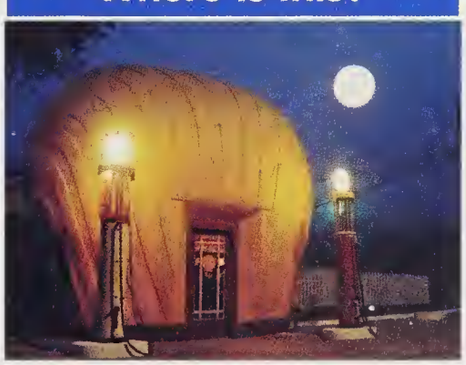
I don't stop for funeral processions

I have just as much respect as anyone for the deceased, but stopping on a highway for a funeral procession is just plain dangerous. I have personally witnessed two accidents caused by someone suddenly stopping.

According to the NC State Police, it is illegal to stop on a highway for any reason other than to make a turn, unless directed to do so by a law enforcement agent.

Rick Stott
Wake Forest

Where is this?



The photo "Last of Its Kind" by James Hart Isley, published in the August magazine shows the landmark Shell filling station building in Winston-Salem. It is not operating but is instead a private office located in Winston-Salem on the corner of Peachtree and Sprague. Preservation North Carolina saved the building from destruction.

Understanding Floyd

I recently changed jobs. I had taught at the Eastern School for the Deaf in Wilson for about five years. Your magazine helped my students, my peers, and of course me, to see and understand a lot of different aspects of what Floyd had done to Eastern North Carolina. Thanks for the good work.

Joan Jackson-Barnes
Wilson

Remembering Floyd

It was September 16, 1999 when we woke up about 6 in the morning. We noticed the carpet in the bedroom was wet. We checked the other rooms, and they were also wet. When we looked out the door, we saw we were in what looked like the ocean.

We were in shock. As time went by the water kept rising. It got about 3 feet high in the house before we left.

We have seven cats, a dog and a rabbit. A boat came by to get us, but we had to make sure our animals were safe first. We took the cats and put them in cages and put them as high as we could in the garage, then took the dog and rabbit, too. We then walked down to meet the truck to take us to the shelter.

We returned home on September 19 to check things out. Thank God all our animals were alive. My husband, my daughter and I were all glad.

We lost everything, but we did rebuild. Everybody was so good to us, helping with food, clothes, money. And I thank God we have our life, too.

So many people lost their lives. My heart goes out to those families.

Patricia Whitley
Rocky Mount

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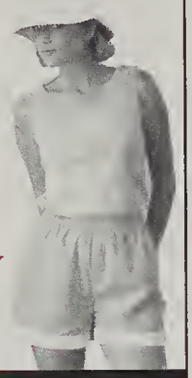

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1800 - One vote elected Thomas Jefferson as President.

1824 - John Quincy Adams was elected as President by the U.S. House of Representatives over Andrew Jackson when one representative from New York changed his vote. The election had been thrown into Congress because no candidate received a majority of votes in the Electoral College.

1845 - Texas became the 28th state in the Union by one vote.

1868 - One vote saved President Andrew Johnson from conviction and removal from office.

1911 - An average of only one vote per precinct passed women's suffrage in California.

1912 - Less than one vote per precinct, in one state, elected Woodrow Wilson as President.

1948 – Lyndon Baines Johnson, the 36th President of the United States, became a U.S. Senator by a margin of one vote.

1968 - A change of one vote per precinct in three states would have made Hubert Humphrey President instead of Richard Nixon.

Source: *TexasVoterGuide.com*

Principles for People

By Sheldon C. Petersen

These days it's especially great to be members of electric cooperatives. As the electric power industry is deregulated and restructured, investor-owned utilities are merging into super utilities often headquartered far from their customers and more removed than ever from local concerns. As competition comes to the industry, with the premium it places on cost consciousness, at least one such utility has officially stated its desire to be rid of unprofitable customers in rural and semi-rural areas. Probably most profit-seeking utilities feel the same.

Electric co-ops, on the other hand, want to serve, keep and acquire the customers that other utilities ignore or abandon — that's why the cooperative movement began in the early days of electrification. Our first priority is serving people, not making money. This priority is behind the seven principles that most kinds of cooperatives — and all electric co-ops — subscribe to. These principles are:

- Voluntary and open membership
- Democratic member control
- Member economic participation
- Autonomy and independence
- Education, training, and information
- Cooperation among cooperatives
- Concern for community

Because we abide by the principles, polls show that most Americans have high opinions of electric co-ops and would like to be served by them.

The principles are the first and most important of what I call "the three C's of the new millennium": Cooperative principles, competitiveness, and culture. The three C's will lead co-ops to prosperity in this century.

Competitiveness and culture (meaning business culture) refer to internal aspects of co-ops themselves that will be crucial to success in the competitive marketplace.

All the national leaders in the electric cooperative program believe that sooner or later competition will affect every co-op in the country. But the culture or environment of behavior and beliefs of a monopoly organization may not fully prepare co-ops for dealing with employees, suppliers or customers in our new competitive pursuits. Co-ops are responding to these challenges, and I believe they will be more than equal to other utilities when the transition to the era of customer choice is complete.

The first C, however, has more to do with the relations between co-ops and the people and communities they serve. Because of the seventh principle — concern for community — a major thrust at CFC and the other national cooperative organizations is to promote development of new cooperatives. In doing this, the organizations put into practice the sixth principle — cooperation among cooperatives.

We're seeing these principles at work in the resurgent formation of new co-ops at the local level, in places such as New England, California, Hawaii, and even in big cities such as New York and now Chicago, where a new urban co-op was announced at the beginning of June. It's called the Community Energy Cooperative and will start out as a service organization to help customers reduce energy demand. Later on, it plans to aggregate its customers and negotiate savings in electricity and natural gas supply.

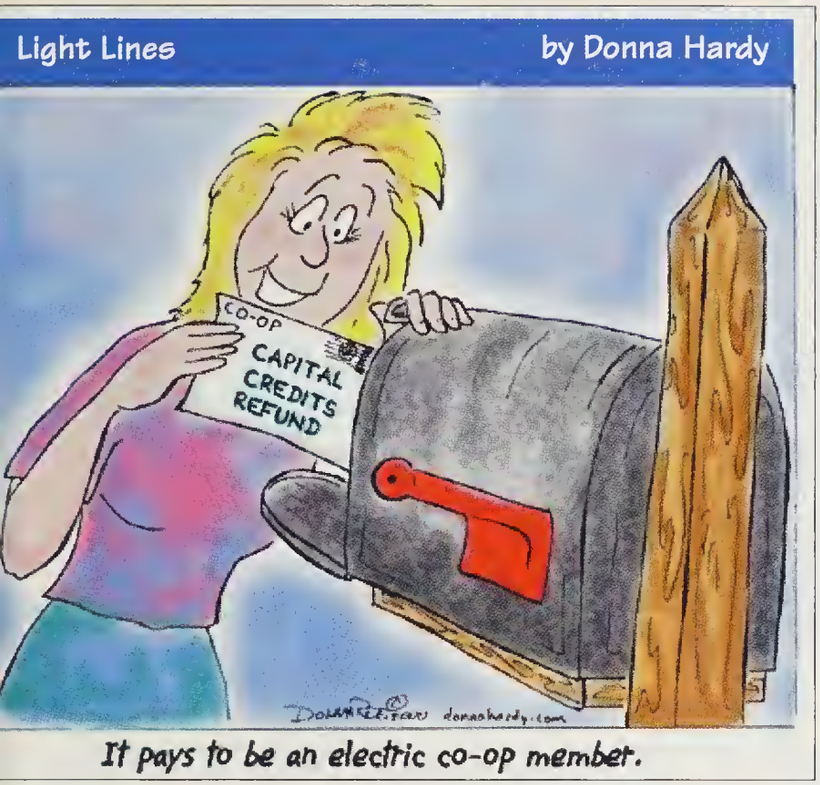
The new co-op is getting technical and organizational help from CFC, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, and other co-op organizations. In an interesting twist, ComEd, the big Chicago IOU that used to be called Commonwealth Edison, is providing start-up money of $14.7 million. They'll also pay the co-op for reducing its members' energy demands. They figure this will encourage cutbacks in demand that'll make it worth their while.

The new co-ops in Chicago and elsewhere are a big plus for the cooperative way of doing business, and all of us in the cooperative community can be proud of them.

Perhaps the most important point about the newcomers is that people who value local control and the interests of consumers recognize that the electric cooperative way of doing business is devoted to exactly those virtues. We expect that to happen more often. And not just in the traditional utility business of poles and wires, but in the new business of power aggregation, where co-ops are formed to consolidate groups of consumers and buy power for them cheaply.

I believe that the new millennium will usher in a golden age of cooperative development. I'm sure all of us who already belong to cooperatives will be delighted to see the cooperative principles exercised to extend the benefits we enjoy to our fellow citizens in all areas of the country.

Sheldon C. Petersen is chief executive officer of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), a not-for-profit cooperative that provides its member utility systems a source of capital, financial products and business management services.



It pays to be an electric co-op member.

California asks co-ops to help in restructuring efforts

Power consumers in California saw their electricity bills double and their utility companies stage rolling blackouts this summer. Although California's 1996 electric restructuring legislation was supposed to usher in competition, lower prices and reliability, Carl Wood, a current member of the state's Public Utility Commission, said that California's restructuring was a "mistake."

But more than restructuring is being blamed for the volatile market. Rising demand for electricity during the summer months, a growing economy, and a shortage of power plants have also had a role in sending prices soaring.

Wood invited the national electric co-op movement to help "develop creative long-term solutions that will be directly responsive to consumer needs." The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Chief Executive Officer Glenn English went to San Francisco in August in response to Wood's invitation.

Wood, who lives in San Diego County, noted that "consumers in New York City have begun forming cooperatives that may be effective in reducing high energy bills they are facing this summer."

"Electric cooperatives will be delighted to help the residential and small business consumers in California find an answer to the question of how to receive a reliable source of electric power at a reasonable price," English said. "Consuers in California are facing problems not unlike those faced by farmers 65 years ago. Farmers found they can do it themselves and there is no doubt in my mind California consumers can as well."

San Diego is California's only fully deregulated energy market and the price spikes have fueled arguments over the state's approach to deregulation, and whether changes are needed.

Consumer advocates accused the local power company of price gouging during peak summer demand, while the company counters that the rates reflect their costs for power and say the state is paying for not building enough power plants in recent years.

California's deregulation law calls for phased-in lifting of price caps. While the state's other dominant utilities will not lift theirs until early 2002, San Diego has already done so.

In other actions dealing with the state's energy/price emergency:

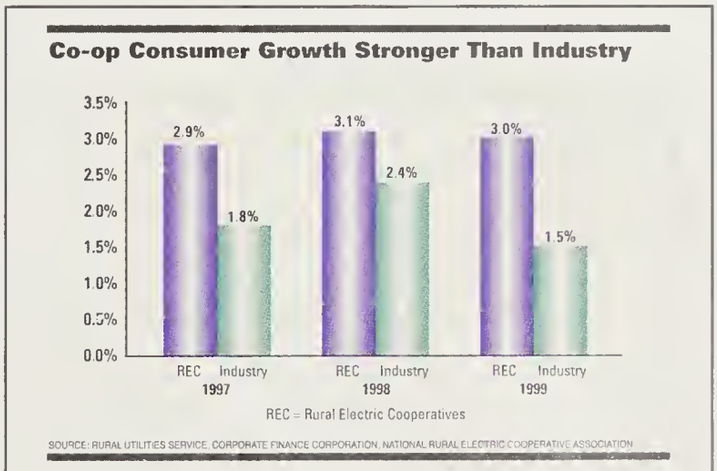
- The White House ordered federal agencies in California to reduce energy usage and all federal agencies that generate and market electricity in the region to deliver as much power as possible to the state.

- California Attorney General Bill Lockyer announced an investigation into electric utility prices, saying he wants to "see if there are anti-competitive behaviors that vio late anti-trust or unfair business practice procedures."

As states restructure their electric utility industry, can consumers expect to see an increase in their electric bills and problems with electric reliability as California consumers have seen? National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Senior Regulatory Counsel Pam Silberstein said, "Unfortunately California is not alone in experiencing significant price spikes this summer. It's happening in the Northeast and the Northwest as well. In Montana, there are industries that are shutting their doors because they can't afford to operate with these high electric prices."

Silberstein added, "My guess is that there are many states looking at California as a model for how not to do restructuring. But whether they'll be able to avoid having the same problems is the $64,000 question."

Jerry Lipson, Electric Co-op Today



Consumer growth of electric co-ops reached a record level in 1999. Co-ops added about 365, 000 new households in 1999; this translates to serving nearly an additional 1 million persons. Co-ops also added about 55, 000 businesses. The total persons served by electric cooperatives reached about 34 million, or about 11 percent of the U.S. population. As shown here, the 3 percent consumer growth of co-ops is double that of the industry.

A mess of fish stories

Michael Gery

Michael Payne, fisherman.

True tales about fish and the people who believe they can catch them

For more fish stories, check out Tar Heel Tales on our Web site: www.carolinacountry.com

My grandfather loves to fish, but he approaches it differently than most. He doesn't play around with a pole; he has always fished with a net. My family has eaten more spot, trout, croaker and flounder than I can begin to count.

Sometimes on a Saturday morning, he'd come by our house early, around 7 a.m., and deliver a mess of fish that he had just caught, already cleaned and filleted and ready to cook. My dad would fry those fish for us for breakfast, while my mother hid in the bedroom with a pillow over her head. She thought it was too early for a fish fry. (She grew up "in town.") But my brother and I loved it! The novelty of fried trout and potatoes for breakfast was not lost on us. Mostly, we loved those mornings because we liked to imagine our granddaddy out on the water before the sun came up, catching those fish especially for us.

We received so many wonderful fishing stories. Thanks to everyone who took the time to write. We enjoyed them all and wish we had room to print more. Next month, we'll run your "Finest Family Recipe" (deadline was Sept. 15). And in December we'll run your "Finest Family Tradition." (deadline is Oct. 15). — *Kim Whorton Tripp*

My pet catfish

One evening after work, I drove down to the lake to get in a little fishing. I caught only one small catfish. I took the fish home to clean and eat, but I was so tired when I got home I dropped into my easy chair, fell asleep and forgot all about that catfish. The next morning my wife told me I'd better get that old catfish off our back porch before it started stinking. I thought the fish was dead, so I pitched it out in the grass, which was still wet with the morning dew. To my surprise, that catfish started moving as soon as it got in the wet grass. That got me to thinking about how long that fish could live out of water.

Well, then I started weaning it from water, little by little. Pretty soon that catfish didn't even need to be in the water! I started taking my pet catfish with me everywhere. It liked to flop up on my left shoulder where it could see all around. My mistake was taking my pet catfish out in our boat for a cruise on the lake. The fish, as always, was up on my shoulder, enjoying the ride. We hit a submerged log in the water, which dislodged the catfish from my shoulder, whereby it fell in the water and drowned. That darn catfish had forgotten how to swim!

Michael Greene
Belmont
Rutherford EMC member

Pork chop sandwiches

One day my grandfather I and went fishing. We hooked the boat and trailer to the back of the car and off we went. As we put the boat into the water it made a big splash!

Granddaddy drove the boat to the middle of the river. We cast out our reels. Then something pulled my line. It was a puppy drum. Granddad pretended to be mad because we had a bet: Whoever got the first fish would win $5.

Much later, he caught a catfish. He was happy. We danced in the boat and went riding over the waves. He even let me drive. Next, we munched on our pork chop sandwiches while we watched the stars come out.

As we headed to the campsite we started to sing, "Oh where, oh where has my little dog gone?" It was fun.

It felt good taking a bath. Our fish made a nice supper. We slept in the tent and made spooky monster sounds. "I will never forget this trip," I told Granddaddy.

Dondrikus Drayton, age 10
Pinetown
Tideland EMC member

How to find them fish

I run a charter boat business. We fish out of the finest fishery on the east coast, Hatteras. As usual, before departing from the dock one day, I prepared my party for the fishing trip. I explained that some days we find and catch a lot of fish — some days less. I explained that I would work hard to find the fish and provide them with a good day of fishing.

We sailed in anticipation of finding some nice fish. Just as I stopped the boat and threw out the first line, two large King Mackerel dove for the live bait. One snatched the bait, while the other missed completely, sailing high in the air and landing in the middle of the boat instead. The 25-pound fish slid to a stop between the feet of a new, inexperienced angler. Looking rather astonished with his mouth hanging open, the angler looked down at the fish flapping wildly at his feet, then stared up at me.

"You sure know how to find them fish, captain!" he exclaimed. "They're jumping in the boat!"

We stored the fish, and the angler took him home for supper.

Berle Wilson
Frisco
Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative member

Pops and Popsie

For the past 20 years, a group of us have taken a yearly fishing trip to the Outer Banks. One of my favorite trips occurred 10 years ago this October.

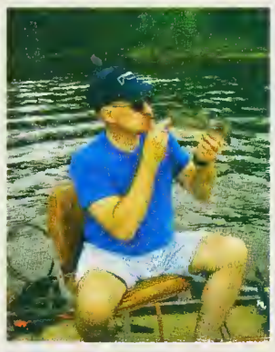
Hubert Setzer (Pops) and Steve Kanaris (Popsie) were the "seniors" of our group. Both were in declining health. They struggled to fish effectively, and they felt they were a burden to the group.

One afternoon we convinced them to go to the Frisco pier to fish, with the understanding that I would be their "mate." I told them they had always out-fished me, and we needed meat for the table.

Upon arriving at the pier, they began to catch fish immediately. They worked me non-stop — I baited hooks and removed fish for more than an hour. They filled a cooler with trout, whiting and puffers.

I'll always be thankful for that day, because they never made the trip again and both have since passed away. I am glad to have the memory of their excitement and laughter while they caught all those fish. They felt good about providing supper for the 12 of us. We miss them on our annual trip. To me, this is what fishing is all about.

Lyon Thomas
Peachland
Pee Dee EMC member



Skip Midkiff and friend, photographed by Lynn Midkiff. They are Wake EMC members.

Low rider

A friend of mine and his buddy had fished all afternoon and had taken their boat back to the boat ramp to get ready to go home. There was already a boat at the landing ready to be pulled out. The boat seemed to be riding really low in the water. My friend asked the two fishermen in the other boat if they had caught anything. They replied, "No, nothing. All we've been doing all day is hitting stumps."

My friend watched as one of the other fishermen backed his pickup down the ramp to load their boat. My friend and his buddy looked at each other and asked, "What looks strange about this picture?"

Then they realized. The other fishermen had fished all afternoon with the small boat trailer still attached to the bottom of their boat. They had never taken the boat off the trailer or even removed the trailer straps. No wonder they had been hitting stumps all afternoon.

This story might seem unbelievable, but it really happened on High Falls Lake in Georgia.

Jerry Moseley
Scaley Mountain
Haywood EMC member

Baling the honey hole

In the late 1950s, I was in my teens. Tom Young was my best friend and fishing mentor. Every Saturday, we would load his old ski boat with poles, rods and Zebco 66s and head for the lake in pursuit of crappies and the elusive largemouth bass.

We devised a highly illegal scheme to slaughter the crappies. We had heard that these fish would swim through boiling oil to feed around a submerged bale of alfalfa hay. We also heard that armed robbery carried a shorter jail sentence than if you were caught "baling" a hole. No problem.

We jammed four bales of alfalfa hay, and I don't know how many cement blocks to sink them with, in that old boat. We covered up everything with a blanket so no one could see. We motored out to our secret "honey hole," anchored and waited until there was no boat traffic. We even took a pair of binoculars and looked around for any game wardens.

When the coast was clear we tossed the first weighted bale overboard. It floated. I don't mean it just didn't go under. It couldn't have floated higher if we had thrown it on the ground. All our weeks of planning were out there floating on the water for every game warden to see. I'd seen Tom Young laugh, but I'd never seen tears stream down his face like they did that day.

Steve Sink
Linwood

Hooking a big one

We were on a family vacation at Holden Beach. My mother and I were competing against my father and brother to see which team could catch the biggest fish. It was getting late in the day, and the girls were losing.

My mother decided it was time for us to try our luck at another spot on the pier, and she cast her line with gusto. The line pulled taunt immediately. My mother just knew she had the winning fish when she yelled, "I got a big one!"

Imagine her surprise when a rather large lady, walking in close, answered, "You sure did!"

(continued on page 14)

(continued from page 13)

My mother, in her exuberance, had hooked this woman by the back of her shirt and pulled her across the pier. She and Mother shared a laugh as they untangled the hook and line. Our family decided unanimously that my mother had won the fishing contest.

Julie C. Murray
Brevard
Haywood EMC member

Dog food as bait

In July 1989, my husband Max and I purchased a new pontoon boat. Our son Marc was 5 years old and our friends' children, John and Jennifer, were 7 and 9. We had planned to go upriver towards the Kerr Dam and had packed coolers with food for us and our dog. We aren't avid fishers, so there was no tackle or rods on board.

Little did we know that they had opened the floodgates to the dam, sending stunned stripers down the river towards us! Once we realized that this was not some giant fish kill, our friend, Russell, started reaching down from the pontoon's bow and scooping them up. They were huge, and they were coming back to life. We decided to keep some. We emptied the largest cooler we had to keep the fish in until we could get home. Not an easy task, as they kept knocking the top off the cooler trying to get out.

They sat on the cooler to keep the fish from flopping out.

Our funniest memories are of the three children sitting on the cooler trying to keep the fish in. They bounced all the way home! Our neighbor on shore had always prided himself on his fish-finding skills. Boy, was he surprised when we came home with three of the biggest bass he had ever seen on Lake Gaston. He rushed over and asked us what we had used for bait. We told him we used dog food. I think it was several months before we told him the truth.

Ginny Munichman
Lake Gaston
Halifax EMC member

Efficient fishing

My dad, a farmer, had one leisure love. He liked to fish. Not just anyplace, though. It had to be at the hottest most shadeless pond within driving distance. I was lured along on these uncomfortable, boring excursions with the promise of something cool to drink or an ice cream cone.

When I was about 9 years old, on a very hot day, Dad got a hankering to fish. We loaded up our gear. My uncle had given my dad some of his discarded poles, and so Dad threw them in with his own assortment. That's how we ended up baiting and casting nine poles. Dad's rationalization was, "They won't all be busy, but something might happen on at least one. We're being fish efficient," he chuckled.

No sooner had we put them all in the water, than Dad announced he needed to "check out the scenery" and disappeared over the hill. He had not been gone for five minutes when the first pole was yanked off its rock and dragged into the water. I leapt to grab it, only to see the second pole jerked from its log and disappear into the lake. I stomped a foot on that one as the third began to drag across the sand. I hollered at my Dad, because now the fourth and fifth were joining the first three. I was grabbing and stomping, hollering and panicking when Dad came flying over the low rise, unbuckled overalls flapping as he ran.

We must have made quite a scene as together we tried to salvage nine active poles that soon were so hopelessly entangled a machete would have done little good. We did get a nice mess of fish for the supper table that night, but never again did my Dad try to "fish efficient."

Bill Kamm
Indian Trail
Union Power member

Ryan caught this 15- pound blue catfish all by himself. Photographed by his mother, Kim Petrasek.

Send us your best. Earn $50.

"Nothing Could Be Finer" 2000 Themes & Rules

The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less.
2. Only one entry per household per month.
3. E-mail or typed, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
4. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
5. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. *(We will not return others.)*
6. We pay $50 for each submission published.
7. We will post on our Web site more entries than we publish, but can't pay for those submissions.
8. Send to Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616. Or by e-mail: carolina.country@ncemcs.com. Or through the Web site: www.carolinacountry.com

Here are the themes in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series. Send us your stories and pictures.

December

"Our Finest Family Tradition"
Passed down through the years
Deadline: Oct. 15

January 2001

"My Advice for the New President"
What should the new U.S. President do for North Carolina and the world?
Deadline: Nov. 15

February 2001

"Why I Like My Electric Co-op"
What does co-op membership mean to you and your family?
Deadline: Dec. 15

They want your vote

Where the statewide and Congressional candidates stand on electric utility industry restructuring

The issue of restructuring the electric utility industry will arise on both the state and federal government levels in the year 2001. As consumers, business people and government officials study this issue and its implications, Carolina Country asked candidates in the Nov. 7 general election to state their positions.

Last summer we asked North Carolina candidates for the U.S. Congress and statewide elective offices to address themselves to the question:

"What do you think elected officials of North Carolina should do to ensure that all classes of consumers benefit from a restructured electricity business?"

Of 55 candidates who will appear on the ballot for Congress and statewide elective office (does not include N.C. General Assembly), 38 responded to Carolina Country. Their profiles and statements appear on the following pages.

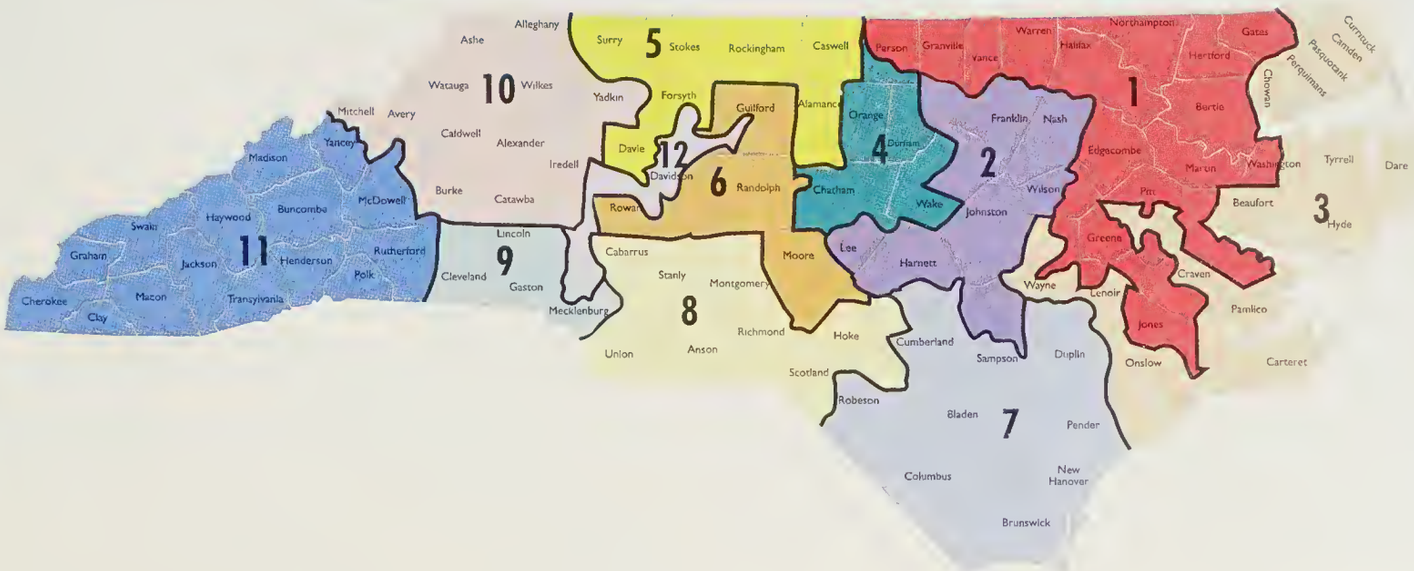
We also asked the 14 candidates for seven elective statewide Supreme Court and Court of Appeals judgeships to make a statement on the same subject. Because most of them declined to make a statement about electric utility restructuring (citing the Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 7, to promise "faithful and impartial performance" of judicial duties), we did not include those candidates in this guide. We do, however, urge voters to study the candidates for judicial positions and to exercise their voting privilege.

Government officials know that electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities owned by their consumers. In North Carolina, electric cooperatives pay more than $67 million per year in state and local taxes. They serve more than 1.7 million people in 93 of the state's 100 counties. And they pay close attention to government's role in utility and related issues.

We urge all eligible cooperative members to register to vote, to inform yourselves of the candidates and issues in this election, to cast ballots, and to stay in touch with your co-op and government representatives throughout the year.

For more information about the Nov. 7 general election, contact your county's Board of Elections, or the State Board of Elections (Web site: www.sboe.state.nc.us/).

North Carolina's Congressional Districts 2000



U.S. House, 1st District

Eva Clayton

Party: Democrat
Profession: Member of Congress
Education: B.A., Johnson C. Smith; M.A., N.C. Central University
Residence: Littleton
Government Experience: County Commissioner (1982-1990); State official
Terms: Four 2-year terms
Committee Assignments: Agriculture; House Budget; Ranking member of Agriculture Committee's Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee

The deregulation and restructuring of the electric system in the United States should not work as a detriment to those consumers who benefit from the services of power producers, electric utility companies, gas companies, water companies and all related entities.

Because there is less of a profit involved or because of limited population or location, rural citizens are often purposefully overlooked; therefore, any restructured plan should consider these factors. The cooperative structure was designed to protect and serve rural, disadvantaged communities and consumers. When the reliability of our electric system is placed at risk, our consumers end up suffering the negative consequences.

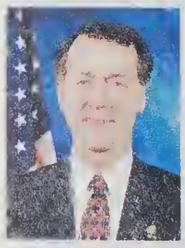
Duane E. Kratzer, Jr.

Party: Republican
Profession: Podiatrist/Real Estate Broker
Education: Doctor of Podiatric Medicine
Residence: Greenville

It is important for Eastern North Carolina that we encourage rural electrification in all areas, especially in the First Congressional District. I am not a person who is for forced compliance from any industry and will make every effort to resist forcing electric cooperatives to electrify any area. State and federal officials should try and make the delivery of electric power to remote or less than profitable areas easier by offering tax incentives and allowing a little higher price per kilowatt hour to insure that all areas are wired. The local, state and federal government should realize that having full electrical power available to all areas encourages more industry, homes, people and a greater demand for power, thus providing a better tax base for government, better chances at recruiting good clean industry and provides the electric cooperatives with more clients.

U.S. House, 2nd District

Bob Etheridge



Party: Democrat
Profession: Businessman and part-time farmer
Education: B.S., Business Administration, Campbell University
Residence: Lillington
Government Experience: N.C. Superintendent of Public Instruction (1988-1996); N.C. General Assembly, 19th House District (1978-1988); Harnett County Commission (1972-1976)
Incumbency: Two 2-year terms
Committee Assignments: Agriculture, Science

Supporters of electricity restructuring promise benefits for consumers if their industry is deregulated, such as more choices and cheaper rates. Therefore, the burden of demonstrating the advantages of electricity restructuring rests with it proponents. As public officials discuss various proposals to bring more competition to the electricity industry, we must make sure that all North Carolinians benefit from change. Our primary consideration in the debate on deregulation must be the needs of the people at the end of the line. Electric cooperatives have demonstrated their commitment to consumers by bringing electrical power to the forgotten corners of rural America. Their guiding principle of service to their customers/owners serves as a model for elected officials considering electricity-restructuring legislation.

U.S. House, 3rd District

Walter B. Jones

Party: Republican
Profession: Member of Congress
Education: B.S., Atlantic Christian College
Residence: Farmville
Government Experience: N.C. House
Committee Assignments: Armed Services, Resources, Banking and Financial Services

Restructuring of the electric industry is designed to ensure that consumers have more choices and competitive prices. But how that restructuring occurs is very important.

First, the federal government must not impose solutions upon the states. A change that might be good for some states could be terrible for North Carolinians.

Second, any restructuring should provide consumer protections, and ensure that customers in smaller towns and rural areas enjoy the same level of competition and service as those in large cities. It also should take into account investments that North Carolina power producers and distributors have already made based upon the old rules.

Lastly, it must ensure dependable service. No change should be made that lessens the reliability that we have come to expect.

Leigh Harvey McNairy

Party: Democrat
Profession: Small business professional
Education: M.A.T., Duke University
Residence: Kinston
Government Experience: Lenoir County School Board member; Rural Prosperity Task Force, Rural Center

As a small businesswoman, I am in full accord with the free enterprise system: business is more efficient and consumers benefit from competition. However, as we transition to a competitive utility structure we must ensure that infrastructure is up to the task for stability of price and service. The North Carolina consumer demands our vigilance to protect their vital interests.

I recommend that the issue be studied carefully before proceeding. Once we act it will be impossible to go back. If the infrastructure is not up to the task of providing conduits for different providers, there could be a delay before consumers see a reduction in rates.

I am also concerned about interruptions in service and responsibility for repairs, in the case of different providers. I support a move toward more competition, as long as it benefits the consumer.

David F. Russell

Party: Libertarian
Profession: UNYX System Administrator
Education: B.A., Natural Science & Math
Residence: Raleigh

There are many instances where deregulation and competition work well. A good example of this is Internet services: there are usually a number available from any location and it's easy to switch. However, the electricity industry is more appropriately compared to the phone company because someone has to own and maintain the physical line(s) into a building. Given that, any change which promotes competition will also make billing and payment much more complex while concurrently degrading service — as we have seen with the phone companies — and I would personally find it easier to not have a phone for a few days than electricity. If someone has a reason, a good plan, and reasonable results from some small trials, I'd be happy to listen; if not, I'm tired of change for the sake of change.

U.S. House, 4th District

David E. Price

Party: Democrat
Profession: Member of U.S. Congress, former university professor
Education: Mars Hill College; B.A., UNC-Chapel Hill; B.D. (Bachelor of Divinity), Ph.D., Political Science, Yale University
Residence: Chapel Hill
Terms: 1986-1994; 1996-present
Committee Assignments: Appropriations Committee; Budget Committee

The prospects for passing electricity deregulation legislation seemed improved over the last two years, but it is now unlikely the Congress will seriously consider any deregulation bill before next year. I understand the importance of any federal action to North Carolina's electric cooperative members, especially with respect to stranded costs and restrictions on cooperatives to provide electric services only. While I favor the principle of competition in the electricity marketplace and the resulting price discipline, I do not favor legislation that would single out electric cooperatives for specific market restrictions. North Carolina's municipal utilities also face serious hurdles in a deregulated market because of our relatively large public power debt. I believe we need to proceed cautiously in deregulating the electricity market, with attention paid to the special needs of North Carolina's power consumers, particularly those in rural and hard-to-serve areas.

Jess Ward

Party: Republican
Profession: Affordable Housing Consultant
Education: M.B.A., Texas Southern University
Government Experience: Cary Town Board

I feel we all have a responsibility to recognize the contributions made to the growth of our state by the electric co-ops, and protect them and their service to our citizens. We should step lightly with the deregulation ideas and remember that co-ops offer power close to cost. With no stockholders to please they have only one goal and that is service. I will always vote, speak and act on the side of our electric co-ops.

U.S. House, 5th District

Richard Burr

Party: Republican
Profession: U.S. Congressman
Education: B.A., Communications, Wake Forest University
Residence: Winston-Salem
Incumbency: Three 2-year terms
Committee Assignments: Commerce, International Relations

The first and perhaps most important responsibility of Congress is to ensure that federal electricity restructuring efforts do no harm. The role of Congress must be to remove existing federal barriers to competition while allowing states to address their responsibilities as regulators, or mandate when or how states may move to competition.

Steven F. LeBoeuf

Party: Libertarian
Profession: Electrical Engineer
Education: Doctoral Candidate at N.C. State University
Residence: Raleigh

Americans now enjoy the cheapest, most effective long-distance phone service of any industrialized nation in the world. And why is that? It's simply because the telecommunication companies are allowed to run their business as they see fit, and customers are allowed to choose the companies that give them the best bang for their buck. My hope is that similar results will be attained through the restructuring of the electric power industry.

In order to provide the profits desired by industry and the service desired by consumers, government must support free-market power distribution with no strings attached. Only then will we have a true win-win relationship between the electricity industry and the people of North Carolina.

U.S. House, 6th District

Jeffrey D. Bentley

Party: Libertarian
Profession: Pharmaceutical Research & Development Quality Assurance
Education: B.S., Guilford College
Residence: Greensboro

Distant, centralized systems typically produce services with little value and poor accountability. As a Libertarian, I deeply value freedom of choice, and anything that responsibly increases our choices will produce powerful benefits for most people in our state. I want to remove the regulatory obstacles that keep local providers from supplying electricity. Increasing consumer choice in selecting electrical providers and allowing them a direct say in how these businesses work will create an open and responsible system that will benefit us all. With more freedom will come more opportunities for the dependable and efficient providers to improve their services and reach more customers, allowing consumers better service with lower cost. Protections against fraud and abuse must be enforced to protect consumers, but not at the expense of flexibility and fair value.

Howard Coble

Party: Republican
Profession: Attorney
Education: B.A., History, J.D., UNC-Chapel Hill
Residence: Greensboro
Government Experience: N.C. General Assembly (1969, 1979-84); Asst. U.S. Attorney, Middle District of N.C. (1969-1973); Commissioner, N.C. Department of Revenue.
Incumbency: Eight 2-year terms
Committee Assignments: Judiciary, Transportation and Infrastructure; Chairman, Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property; Subcommittee on Crime; Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation; Subcommittee on Ground Transportation.

The ultimate goal of restructuring the electricity industry is to provide consumers with a lower price for better electricity service. Excessive government regulations on an industry stifles growth and competition and causes increased operational cost for companies, which are in turn passed onto consumers as higher rates. As both federal and state legislators consider ways to restructure the electricity industry, we must focus on encouraging companies to enter into new markets while simultaneously ensuring all consumers consistent and economical access to service. If these requirements are met and the electricity industry is deregulated, competition will flourish and all consumers, in both rural and urban areas, will appreciate new consumer choices, technically advanced services and most importantly, lower prices.

U.S. House, 7th District

James R. Adams

picture not available

Party: Republican
Profession: Civil Engineer
Education: B.S., Engineering, USMA
Residence: Fayetteville

As a former member of South River Electric for 11 years, I do recognize the importance and value of affordable electricity for all areas and consumers in the State of North Carolina. I believe that it is essential for all elected officials to do their best to maintain service to everyone in the state. The rural cooperatives are certainly one of the best means for providing this electric service to rural areas and should be supported 100 percent.

(continued on page 18)

Mike McIntyre

Party: Democrat
Profession: Lawyer
Education: B.A. and J.D., UNC-Chapel Hill
Residence: Lumberton
Terms: Two 2-year terms
Committee Assignments: Armed Services, Agriculture

Over the last several years, there has been much debate surrounding legislation to restructure the nation's $220 billion-a-year electric utility industry. In the last Congress, the U.S. House Commerce Committee decided to discontinue an effort to revamp the industry, and it again seems unlikely that this complex issue will be resolved before the end of this year's session. The Commerce Committee is still working to resolve some critical differences in the proposals, but it is imperative that we not act hastily when the stakes are so long-lasting and far-reaching. Most importantly, we must carefully consider consumer concerns in this debate and work to ensure that all electric customers, especially rural customers, can still count on reliability, affordability and high-quality service from their electric provider.

U.S. House, 8th District

Robin Hayes

Party: Republican
Profession: Owner/Operator, Mount Pleasant Hosiery Mill
Education: B.A., Duke University
Residence: Concord
Government Experience: N.C. State Legislator (1992-96); Majority Whip (1994-96)
Terms: One 2-year term
Committee Assignments:Armed Services; Agriculture; Resources

Increasingly, we have witnessed states throughout the nation moving toward a less regulated marketplace. In theory, I believe this movement represents a benefit to the consumer. With less regulation, the business of power generation and distribution will become more competitive, and as a result, the average consumer should receive better service at a better rate.

We must, however, be prudent in our approach to deregulating the market, particularly as it affects rural customers. For decades now, the North Carolina Electric Cooperatives have provided a service in a market that few others were willing to enter. The cooperatives have allowed thousands of North Carolinians to prosper in the state's rural economy. Any action taken toward a deregulated marketplace must be done in a way that rural customers continue to enjoy full service at a competitive rate.

As a federal legislator, I will continue my work to ensure that the federal government lifts any barriers impeding North Carolina's progress toward a deregulated marketplace. Clearly, North Carolina knows best the needs of rural customers and does not require directives handed down by Washington bureaucrats

Mike Taylor

Party: Democrat
Profession: Lawyer
Education: B.A. and J.D., UNC-Chapel Hill; M.A. and Ph.D. in Classical Archaeology, Harvard University
Residence: Albemarle

I support a cautious approach to restructuring the electric industry that protects consumers and maintains a high degree of service and availability while at the same time promoting competition. I feel any actions by North Carolina's elected officials should protect consumers' interests first, and any restructuring should ensure that consumers in rural areas continue to have access to affordable, dependable electric service. I want to make sure that the social costs of providing electric power to homes and farms in rural areas are fairly shared by everyone.

U.S. House, 9th District

Christopher S. Cole

Party: Libertarian
Profession: Retail Management
Education: B.A., UNC-Wilmington
Residence: Charlotte

The various power company monopolies were created by the government. In addition, the government participates in the power industry through such agencies as the Tennessee Valley Authority. Therefore, it is inconsistent for the government to be promoting the free market in the power industry. It is therefore in everyone's best interest if the government just continues to deregulate, without trumpeting the fact. The less consumer confusion, the better off everyone will be.

Sue Myrick

Party: Republican
Profession: Member of Congress
Education: Heidelburg College
Residence: Charlotte
Prior Government Experience: Mayor of Charlotte (1987-1991); Charlotte City Council member
Incumbency: Three 2-year terms
Committee Assignments: Rules Committee

I support electric utilities restructuring because I believe that fair competition lowers prices, improves service and spurs innovation. However, any federal legislation to restructure the electric utility industry must, among other things, ensure that all retail customers benefit, require protections against market power abuses, and protect those who have invested in power facilities and transmission lines so they are not punished for making prudent investment decisions based on current laws. Legislation should also not disrupt universal access and include strong consumer protection provisions. I believe that if the country could more efficiently use its power generating capacity and lower its energy costs, America would be at a greater competitive advantage in the world market and more jobs would be created.

U.S. House, 10th District

Cass Ballenger

Party: Republican
Profession: Businessman
Education: B.A., Amherst College
Residence: Hickory
Government Experience: N.C. Senate, N.C. House, Catawba County Board of Commissioners
Incumbency: Seven 2-year terms
Committee Assignments: Education and the Workforce; International Relations

In any comprehensive federal restructuring legislation, members of Congress must ensure that electric service will continue to be competitively priced, reliable and most of all, guaranteed to all consumers, regardless of geographic location.

Delmas Parker

Party: Democrat
Profession: Education, Teacher
Education: M.A., Appalachian State University
Residence: Fleetwood

I am opposed to the deregulation of electrical service providers especially the co-ops in western North Carolina. Co-ops buy electricity based upon the amount consumed in the service area. The higher the amount purchased, the cheaper the cost for consumers. If the electrical industry were deregulated, the big utility companies would compete vigorously for the large business consumers leaving the residential consumer to pay a higher price for electricity. Can anyone say that their telephone or cable costs have decreased since deregulation? What about the airlines? Mergers have produced several large airlines which provide poor service. I do not believe that deregulation would serve the interests of the homeowner in western North Carolina.

U.S. House, 11th District

Charles Hart Taylor

Party: Republican
Profession: Tree Farmer
Education: B.A., J.D., Wake Forest University
Residence: Brevard
Government Experience: N.C. Senate (1972-74), Minority Leader (1972-74); Minority Leader (1968-72); N.C. House (1966-1972)
Terms: Five 2-year terms
Committee Assignments: Committee on Appropriations; Chair, Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch; Member, Subcommittee on the Interior, and Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary

The ultimate goal of deregulation must be lower monthly bills for the electricity consumer. When given the opportunity to choose among several electricity providers - including the cooperatives that have been serving many areas of North Carolina for decades - consumers will be able to select the provider with the best service at the lowest price. Competition, however, will not happen overnight: larger, investor-owned utilities possess the economies of scale to occupy a substantial advantage from the first day of deregulation; the state's municipally-owned utilities are saddled with literally billions of dollars in debt for their investments in electricity service; the cooperatives, like most utilities, assert the need for recovery of their stranded costs. Any deregulation plan, whether at the federal or state level, must be comprehensive enough to address each of these utilities' needs equitably. Intended or not, an advantage for any class of utility means that some consumers will win, while many others will lose.

U.S. House, 12th District

Chad Mitchell

Party: Republican
Profession: Teacher
Education: B.A.
Residence: Faith

I am of the opinion that a restructured electricity business would benefit the citizens of North Carolina, if the restructuring is done properly. Moving an industry from a government-controlled monopoly to a competitive environment can be a very tricky business. Since California has moved to a system of competition, electric rates have increased by approximately 300 percent. We must prevent this from happening in North Carolina at all costs. I believe that the key here is to move slowly. Protection of the consumer must be the frame of reference for all decisions made. A careful case study of previous restructuring projects certainly would be useful in protecting our consumers. Copy other's successes, while avoiding their mistakes is crucial.

Melvin Watt

Party: Democrat
Profession: Lawyer
Education: UNC-Chapel Hill; Yale Law School
Residence: Charlotte
Government Experience: N.C. Senate (1985-87)
Terms: Four 2-year terms
Committee Assignments: Banking and Financial Services; Judiciary

North Carolina's elected officials should insure that legislation designed to allow electrical restructuring include specific provisions which guarantee universal service at reasonable prices to all citizens, especially those in remote, rural and inner city areas. Rural electric cooperatives should continue to play a role in providing universal service at reasonable prices.

Governor

Michael F. Easley

Party: Democrat
Profession: Attorney General
Education: B.A., UNC-Chapel Hill; J.D., N.C. Central University
Residence: Raleigh
Government Experience: District Attorney for 13th Judicial District in Brunswick, Bladen and Columbus counties

As Governor, I will work to ensure electric customers safe, reliable, affordable electric service at the lowest possible cost. We must protect consumers by preventing deceptive marketing and discriminatory practices. Consumer guarantees of service must continue regardless of a consumer's income or location, including shutoff protections and other programs to meet the special needs of low income customers. It is important we include provisions for consumer education to inform customers of changes resulting from opening the retail electric market, helping consumers understand their choices and lower their electric bills through informed decision-making.

As your Attorney General, I have cracked down on consumer fraud, provided consumer education and expanded consumer awareness to help protect our citizens from unscrupulous business practices. I will continue this work as Governor and ensure our working families have a reasonable likelihood of lower utility bills from restructuring.

Barbara Howe

Party: Libertarian
Profession: Homemaker
Education: B. A. in English and Psychology, Pfeiffer College
Residence: Oxford

Definite growing pains are likely to occur when the power industry is deregulated. The best thing elected officials can do is to try to make the transition swiftly. In order for new supplies of energy to become available to meet the demands of competition, future investors will need reassurance that the legislature will act quickly to make the changes to a deregulated market.

Richard Vinroot

Party: Republican
Profession: Attorney
Education: B.S., Business Administration, J.D., UNC-Chapel Hill
Residence: Charlotte
Government Experience: Mayor of Charlotte (1991-1995); Charlotte City Council (1983-1991)

Electric deregulation is an opportunity to lower rates and encourage economic growth. One of the best things to do for economic development in rural communities is to lower electric rates.

My principles on deregulation are clear. Cut rates for both residential and commercial customers, maintain the infrastructure for reliable service and rapid response to emergencies like hurricanes and floods.

Currently, 51 small cities and towns pay 25 percent more for electricity than the rest of the state because of debts left over from the late 1970s. We should consider all financial options to reduce debt like asset sales and use of tobacco foundation funds since many of these towns are in tobacco dependent communities. I am against any new taxes since they only raise costs, not lower them.

(continued on page 20)

Lieutenant Governor

Betsy Cochrane

Party: Republican
Profession: State Senate, Former Teacher
Education: B.A., Education with minor in History, Meredith College
Residence: Advance
Government Experience: N.C. Senate (1988-present); N.C. House

The Senate has taken a deliberative approach to the issue of electric deregulation, which I believe is appropriate because the issue is complicated. We are interested in reducing rates to customers, but we must continue affordable power to Mrs. McGregor on the end of Campbell Road. The debt of the ElectriCities must be resolved so we do not bankrupt any town governments. The commission seems to have determined that partial payment of uneconomic utility investments is in the public interest. It seems unfair for cautiously resolving the complex issue and for educating officials on unbundling costs, generation, and stranded costs. Setting deadlines is critical to anything happening, and the commission has done that.

Beverly Eaves Perdue

Party: Democrat
Profession: Legislator
Education: B.A., Ph.D., University of Florida
Residence: New Bern
Government Experience: N.C. Senate (1990-present), N.C. House (1986-1989)
Committee Assignments: Select Committee on Tobacco, Appropriations/ Base Budget, Agriculture/ Environment/ Natural Resources, Education/ Higher Education, Finance, Health Care, Ways & Means

As Lieutenant Governor, I will continue my present work in the General Assembly to ensure that our residential utility consumers — especially in rural areas — do not bear the burden of deregulation. Other states have suffered from hasty deregulation and I will continue to be an ardent voice on this issue. I fully support the electric cooperative model that encourages regular, everyday electric consumers to form buying pools. Consumers should be able to join together so that "little guy" users of electricity will gain market leverage comparable to big companies. Furthermore, I have a legislative record of support for allowing electricity marketers to diversify their services in a manner that will provide benefits to the consumer.

Secretary of State

Elaine Marshall

Party: Democrat
Profession: Secretary of State; Lawyer
Education: B.S., University of Maryland; Law degree, Campbell University
Residence: Buies Creek
Government Experience: N.C. State Senator
Incumbency: One 4-year term
Committee Assignments: N.C. Local Government Commission; N.C. Information Resources Management Commission; N.C. 4-H Development Fund, Inc. Board of Directors, N.C. Economic Development Board; Meredith College Board of Trustees; Masonic Homes Advisory Board

If the General Assembly is asked to take action on measures related to the restructuring of the electric industry during the next session, I believe the best course of action is one of careful and gradual transition.

To ensure all classes of customers benefit from the result, we must: protect the integrity of the non-profit electric cooperative; find a fair and equitable solution to the debt restructuring facing ElectriCities; and, allow large providers the freedom to compete in a national and global economy.

To accomplish all of this, we must recognize there is no "one size fits all" answer. My message to lawmakers would be: "Let's take our time and do this right."

N.C. Auditor

Ralph Campbell

Party: Democrat
Profession: Auditor
Education: B.A., Business Administration, Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, St. Augustine's College; Honorary Doctor of Christian Letters, Shaw Divinity School
Residence: Raleigh
Government Experience: Raleigh City Council (1985-1992); Mayor Pre tem (1989-1992)
Incumbency: Two 4-year terms
Committee Assignments: Council of State; Information Resource Management Commission; Advisory Council on Government Auditing Standards for the U.S. Comptroller General; Electronic Benefits Transfer Council's Fraud and Audit Committee

The position of State Auditor relies heavily on its independence to serve all interests in our state, both in and out of government. Public policy issues are reserved for the Governor and General Assembly in our state, while it is the role of the State Auditor to determine adherence to that policy.

Restructuring the electricity industry in North Carolina is a policy issue presently before the General Assembly. While I may have personal opinions about restructuring and the many complex issues associated with it, including assuring access to all citizens at reasonable cost and providing for equitable treatment of stranded costs, it would be inappropriate for me to express those opinions publicly. To do so, could be perceived by others as me trying to impose my personal agenda on the affairs of North Carolina government and those with policymaking duties under our Constitution.

N.C. Treasurer

Henry McKoy

Party: Republican
Profession: Management Consultant
Education: B.S., Political Science; M.S., History
Residence: Raleigh
Government Experience: Deputy Secretary, Department of Administration; N.C. Senate

The purpose of any cooperative, utility company of business is to benefit the consumers at the best possible price and with the best quality of service. As an elected official, I believe that it is my responsibility to ensure that any restructured utility industry benefit all consumers in the fairest and most economical way. The State Treasurer must seek approaches which protect the consumer and he must remain focused on a balanced system that benefits customers of Electric Cooperatives as well as others. He must seek to maintain a Triple A Bond rating and work for solutions with all concerned that at all times protect the state's consumers.

Richard Moore

Party: Democrat
Profession: Attorney, farmer
Education: B.A., History, and J.D., Wake Forest University; graduate degree in Accounting and Finance, London School of Economics
Residence: Kittrell
Government Experience: Assistant U.S. Attorney, N.C. Eastern District (1989-1992); N.C. House, 22nd District (1993-1994); Secretary, N.C. Dept of Crime Control and Public Safety (1995-1999)

I support the continuation of the Deregulation Study Commission's cautious but thorough approach in the evaluation of this issue, and am anxious to see what recommendations come out of their efforts. The end result of any deregulation of the electricity industry must ensure that the consumer, both residential and business, have both the lowest possible cost and the best possible service. And, to the extent possible, every customer — both large and small users — should enjoy the benefit that may come from the formation of consumer buying pools in a post deregulation marketplace. As a cooperative member myself, I am very appreciative of the job Wake EMC does, and look forward to working on this issue with all concerned parties to do what's right.

N.C. Superintendent of Public Instruction

Michael Barrick

Party: Republican
Profession: Journalist, entrepreneur
Education: B.A., English and History, Glenville State College, Glenville, WV
Residence: Caldwell County
Government Experience: Current Chairman, Caldwell County Human Relations Council; Current Member, Caldwell County Board of Education

My concern with the impending deregulation of the electric power industry is that customers will be forced to absorb the costs of those utility companies that have made poor or questionable business decisions, in particular, municipal companies that invested heavily in alternative sources and now hope that the "stranded" costs of those decisions will be absorbed by all customers. While I have been quite pleased with the utility service offered by my small town utility, I know also that residents served by cooperatives and private companies have customarily enjoyed more competitive prices. It certainly won't be fair to customers of these entities – which have remained efficient because of market forces – to pass those costs along to them. Whatever legislation emerges in the General Assembly should guarantee that price stabilization is assured since nearly 20 percent of North Carolina's children and seniors live in poverty.

Mike Ward

Party: Democrat
Profession: Educator
Residence: Raleigh
Government Experience: Executive Director, N.C. Standards Board for Public School Administration (1994-1997); Superintendent of Schools, Granville County (1990-1994)
Terms: One 4-year term

While my primary responsibility is for the public school system, this is an important issue affecting communities, business and individual consumers. The work of the commission studying this issue should proceed. Continued testimony should be solicited from all parties. Careful attention should be given to experiences in other states, such as California, where in many instances, electric bills have gone up significantly since restructuring took place. We should continue to address this issue with care, because the consequences of a bad decision could be severe.

N.C. Attorney General

Roy Cooper

Party: Democrat
Profession: Attorney
Education: B.A., J.D.,UNC-Chapel Hill
Residence: Rocky Mount
Government Experience: N.C. Senate Majority Leader (1997-present); N.C. Senate, District 10 (1991-Present); N.C. House, District 72 (1987-1991)

I believe that any change North Carolina makes to its utility regulations should benefit all consumers, from the homeowner living at the end of the dirt road to the industrial customer in our largest city. Protecting consumers from scams and giving them thorough information about their choices must be our first priority. Second, we must make sure that electricity service is reliable and available for a reasonable price. And finally we must ensure that providers and customers have a fair opportunity to participate in utility restructuring if they choose to do so.

Commissioner of Agriculture

Meg Scott Phipps

Party: Democrat
Profession: Agricultural attorney and owner of Melville Farms, Inc.
Education: B.A., Wake Forest University; J.D., Campbell University School of Law; LL.M. in Agricultural Law, University of Arkansas School of Law
Residence: Haw River
Government Experience: N.C. Administrative Law Judge (1995-present)

We need to make sure that the EMCs remain financially viable so that they can continue to provide a reliable and efficient source of electricity to rural North Carolina.

Steve Troxler

Party: Republican
Profession: Farmer/Businessman
Education: B.S., Conservation with concentration in Environmental Studies, N.C. State University
Residence: Browns Summit
Government Experience: Guilford County Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor

We must do everything we can to insure that rural users of electricity have the same access at a reasonable price as large users of electric power.

Commissioner of Labor

Doug Berger

Party: Democrat
Profession: Deputy Commissioner, N.C. Industrial Commission
Education: B.A., Political Science and Speech Communication, J.D., UNC-Chapel Hill;
Residence: Youngsville
Government Experience: Deputy Commissioner, N.C. Industrial Commission; Board member, Franklin County Board of Social Services

I believe we should base our policy on a rational evaluation of what is best for consumers. We need to carefully examine our options on deregulation and not move too quickly into unknown territory. It's my understanding that results in other states have not necessarily yielded an improvement in the lives of average citizens. We need to study what those states have done, both right and wrong, and accept their ideas that work and reject those that do not.

(continued on page 22)

Cherie Berry

Party: Republican
Profession: Manufacturing consultant
Education: College
Residence: Newton
Government Experience: N.C. General Assembly (present)
Committee Assignments: Appropriations; Capital Budget Pensions and Retirement; Campaign Finance Reform and Election Laws

The driving force behind deregulation should be "choice." If each customer, city and citizen have "choice" then electric rates should be lower for everyone.

The public debt of nearly $5.5 billion associated with the construction of nuclear plants in the 1970s and 1980s is an overwhelming concern for North Carolina.

Our state treasurer, Harlan Boyles, has developed a plan for dealing with the MPA (Municipal Power Agency) debt with input from the 51 cities in North Carolina that are members of that agency.

Our treasurer has always been an excellent steward of our state's investments and credit rating and his plan deserves careful consideration.

The General Assembly and all interested parties should resolve the deregulation issue in the 2001 session.

COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

Mike Causey

Party: Republican
Profession: Consultant/Teacher
Education: A.A.S., Engineering Technology; B.S., Business Administration; M.B.A. Studies; Executive Management Certificate, High Point University and Purdue University
Residence: Greensboro

Elected officials must make sure the process is fair and consumers are protected. Consumers need and want full and fair choice. Consumers, not the government, should decide what succeeds in the marketplace. I believe that reliability is the number one concern among consumers. Restructuring legislation needs to help, not hinder, current or future generators from participating in the market. There should be nothing that prevents consumers from choosing any qualified energy provider, including their local utility. Consumers don't want "forced choice," it's not choice if the government is telling us when and how to choose. States, not the federal government, should choose the most practical course of action on electric restructuring. Electric utilities must be allowed to continue to serve their current customers.

Jim Long

Party: Democrat
Profession: N.C. Insurance Commissioner; State Fire Marshall
Education: A.B., J.D., UNC-Chapel Hill
Residence: Raleigh
Government Experience: Counsel to Speaker of N.C. House (1980-84); Chief Deputy Commissioner of Insurance (1975-76); N.C. House (1970-75)
Incumbency: Four 4-year terms

Based on recent reports from California about the price increase in electricity after deregulation, I would urge that North Carolina approach this issue very slowly and carefully to assure that deregulation would actually result in a consumer savings through increased competition, but yet preserving the stability of the electric cooperatives, which for over 50 years have furnished electricity to the rural residents of North Carolina in areas where large utilities would not furnish service.

The following declared candidates did not return complete responses to Carolina Country's survey:

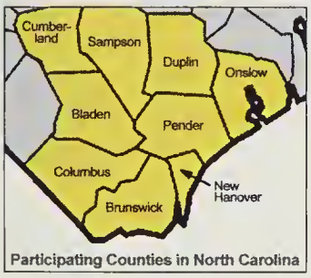
Christopher Sean Delaney, U.S. House, 1st District
Doug Haynes, U.S. House, 2nd District
Mark Daniel Jackson, U.S. House, 2nd District
Brian Towey, U.S. House, 4th District
Bob Burns, U.S. House, 7th District
Jack Schwartz, U.S. House, 8th District
Ed McGuire, U.S. House, 9th District
Deborah Garrett Eddins, U.S. House 10th District
Sam Neill, U.S. House, 11th District
Charles Barry Williams, U.S. House, 11th District
Anna Lyon, U.S. House, 12th District
Harris Durham Blake, N.C. Secretary of State
Leslie Merritt, N.C. Auditor
Dan Boyce, N.C. Attorney General

Golf Trail is online

The Web site www.ncgolftrail.com, by North Carolina Golf Trail, promotes golf and travel in North Carolina. Here is information on more than 130 golf courses, lodging and packages, golf vacations, golf schools and golf real estate. Plus, you can check out news and specials and book tee times online.

Asheville's "art museum without walls"

Adorning downtown Asheville are free-standing sculptures, plaques embedded in sidewalks, murals, mosaics and other works of art on the city walkways, part of the Asheville Urban Trail. On Oct.15, the Walk into History festival celebrates the 10-year effort to develop the 1.7-mile downtown attraction. Contact the Urban Trail hotline with the Asheville Parks and Recreation Department at (828) 259-5498, ext. 400.



Participating Counties in North Carolina

Southeast N.C. is online

The Southeast Public Interest Network of North Carolina, Inc. (SpinNC) has set up at Web site at , www.spinnc.org for New Hanover, Pender, Brunswick, Onslow, Cumberland, Bladen, Duplin, Sampson and Columbus counties. Site features will include a directory of links, a regional calendar of events and an expansion of the Collaborative Community Assistance Network (CCAN) to include an online regional information and referral database. The site allows organizations and citizens to submit announcements to over 100 media outlets.

Help prevent child abuse

Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina is a volunteer organization which since 1979 has sought to help ease the suffering of North Carolina children by strengthening families. They offer workshops, brochures and conferences. Contact them at (919) 829-8009 or visit their web site at www.childabusenc.org

National Parks Pass

The National Park Service and its official nonprofit partner, the National Park Foundation, are offering a National Parks Pass that allows its holders to enter sites and activities in each of the 379 national parks around the country. The National Parks Pass costs $50 and provides unlimited entrance for one year from month of purchase. It admits all vehicle occupants where vehicle entrance fees are charged, and the purchaser 's family where per person entrance fees are charged.

Included with the pass is a "Pop-Out" map of all national parks, a "Proud Partner" vehicle decal and an offer for the free "GoParks" newsletter. More than 80 percent of the proceeds from sales of the pass will fund National Park projects.

To purchase your pass, go online to www.nationalparks.org or call 1-888-GO-PARKS. To order by mail, send a check or money order to the National Park Service for $50 (plus $3.95 for shipping and handling) to National Parks Pass, 27540 Avenue Mentry, Valencia, CA 91355.

Mystery Hill

For over 50 years, Mystery Hill, located near Blowing Rock, has amazed visitors with its strange phenomenon. It's "like standing on the side of the mountain and being pulled along sideways." In 1957, Buford Stamey and Rondia J. Underwood bought the site from William Hudson and began running a successful entertainment center. Tourists came back again and again to see new exhibits and experience the strange north-pulling sensation.

A ticket to Mystery Hill includes admission to The Mystery House, Hall of Mystery, Bubble-Rama, Puzzle Room and Appalachian Heritage Museum. For information about rates and times, call (704) 264-2792.

The preliminary design of the U.S. Postal Service commemorative Thomas Wolfe stamp, by artist Michael J. Deas, to be issued Oct. 3.

New Thomas Wolfe books

October 3 marks the 100th birthday of Asheville native Thomas Wolfe, one of America's greatest writers. Among other celebrations are special events in Asheville Oct. 1-3, lectures and a dramatic performance of "Look Homeward, Angel" in Chapel Hill, and a commemorative U.S. Postal Service stamp.

And the University of South Carolina Press will issue two new books.

"O Lost" is the original complete manuscript for "Look Homeward, Angel." Wolfe scholars have known about this manuscript, but now the general public can see it. It's 736 pages and costs $29.95 in hardcover.

"To Loot My Life Clean: The Thomas Wolfe-Maxwell Perkins Correspondence" contains 251 letters between Wolfe and his editor, Perkins. The letters reveal much about the collaborative process of editing 66,000 words of Wolfe's original document to create "Look Homeward, Angel." It's 376 pages and sells for $39.95 in hardcover.

Both will be available in bookstores beginning in October. Or contact the publisher at (800) 768-2500.

StoneTree Signs

Talk about having a "blast" with a business. Kevin and Michelle Bortree of Denton operate StoneTree Signs, a sign company specializing in sandblasting wood and stone. Michelle Bortree designs the sign in a rubbery, sandblast-resistant material, places it over the wood and then sandblasts. The machine eats away the wood – and what is left is the design.

StoneTree offers choices of redwood, western red cedar, poplar, pine and other woods. They can also make signs from a high-density polyurethane board, which can be fashioned to look like wood, as well as stone works for garden markers, pathways and pet headstones. StoneTree Signs: (336) 857-3145.

Fayetteville attractions

Fayetteville is more than just a military town. Perhaps most famous for its military installations such as Fort Bragg and Pope Air Base, the city also offers a wide variety of things to do – from museums and theaters to dining, shopping, recreation and golf.

A new attraction is the Airborne and Special Operations Museum - the only place where you can see, hear and experience the comprehensive story of the U.S. Airborne and Special Operations units. There's also Cape Fear Botanical Garden, an 85-acre public botanical garden ideal for outdoor picnicking and hiking; Fantasy Lake, a water park with slides, paddle boats, trapeze swings, picnic areas and sandy beaches; Jambbas Ranch, where you can see exotic animals; and the North Carolina Symphony.

Contact the Fayetteville Area Convention & Visitor Bureau at (910) 483-5311 or www.facvb.com.

New state government Web sites

The new North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles Web site includes information about vehicle registration, emissions, insurance, licenses, crash reports, study guides to obtaining your license and help for newcomers. Drivers who use credit cards can renew their vehicle registrations on-line. Go to www.dmv.dot.state.nc.us/VehicleRegistration/.

The revamped state government Web site is a comprehensive guide to government agencies and services. County and city government information is here, too. Go to www.ncgov.com/html/basic/index.html.

Nature in Newton Grove

Old Mill Stream NURSERY GREENHOUSES LANDSCAPING

Old Mill Stream is a family-owned, 70-acre nursery, greenhouse and landscape company with natural preserves located in Newton Grove. They provide educational and fun adventures for school children, families, church groups, civic organizations and scouts. You can take a hayride, tour a working greenhouse, explore a beaver dam, feed farm animals, walk to a Civil War cemetery, and enjoy lunch. Call (910) 567-2305 or visit their Web site at www.oldmillstream.com/nature.html.

A state guide to Volkssport

The Tarheel State Walkers Volkssport Association has compiled a booklet of 54 great places to walk, bike, swim and cross-country ski around the state. All the events described are sanctioned by the American Volkssport Association.

To get your copy of this booklet, send a check for $3 to TSWVA Booklet, c/o 301 Spyglass Hill Place, Salisbury, NC 28144. You can also call (704) 857-9657 or visit www.angelfire.com/nc2/tswvawalkers.

NC Pottery Center

North Carolina's noted Seagrove pottery heritage is represented in the North Carolina Pottery Center. The center includes permanent and changing exhibits on the history and ongoing tradition of North Carolina pottery, activities, and map and information services to the potteries of the Seagrove area and across the state. A display of representative works from the more than 90 area potteries can help in planning your visit. The Pottery Center is located at 250 East Ave., Seagrove, and is open Tuesday - Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact the Pottery Center at (336) 873-8430 or www.ncpotterycenter.com.

Life in a Methodist Parsonage

John Reed Bumgarner recollects life in North Carolina in the early years of this century in his book, "PK: Life in a Methodist Parsonage." The initials "P.K." stand for "Preacher's Kid." He grew up in a Methodist parsonage. The author's father was a dedicated minister who had "an almost total disregard for things material." His mother was the daughter of a carpenter and taught him the value of their simple furnishings.

John Bumgarner says "These memories reach back more than eighty years. The objectives of Methodism are largely unchanged; but the mode of living in a Methodist parsonage is vastly changed."

The book retails for $10.95 and can be ordered by contacting Vantage Press, Inc. at (212) 736-1767 or 516 West 34th St., New York, NY 10001.

Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden

Located in Belmont in western North Carolina, the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden an outgrowth of a gift from Daniel Jonathan Stowe, a retired Belmont textile executive, who donated 450 acres of rolling meadows, woodlands and lakefront property as well as a $14 million endowment for the development of a world class botanical garden.

Visitors see groomed formal gardens, natural woodland, meadow and wetland areas, greenhouses with tropical plants, annual and perennial flowers, shrubs, vines and trees. Call them at (704) 825-4490 or visit their Web site at www.dsbg.org.

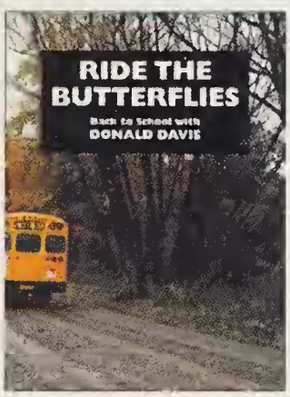
Fan mail for the troops

Friends of Our Troops is an organization supporting American troops at home and abroad. They receive mail from all over the nation, sort it and distribute it. The organization continues the Vietnam Mail Call program established in 1965.

For the up-coming 2000 Christmas season, the time is now for people across the United States to write cards and letters in support of our troops. Military Mail is an outstanding way for individuals and families to show their patriotism and pride in our young military men and women.

To send mail for the upcoming holiday season, contact Friends of Our Troops, P.O. Box 65408, Fayetteville, NC 28306 or go to www.militarymail.org/album.htm.

Ride the Butterflies



Collected here are Donald Davis' all-time favorite school stories. Whether we are traveling around the world with Miss Daisy, the fourth grade teacher who integrated arithmetic, geography and English before the term "whole language" ever surfaced; or watching in awe as a classmate conjugates malaprops in Miss Vergilius Darwin's Latin class; or driving a school bus and learning about segregation – we experience flashes of recognition in moments that transcend Donald Davis' North Carolina Appalachian childhood.

The book retails for $4.95 and is available at bookstores. Contact the publisher August House Publishers at (800) 284-8784 or www.augusthouse.com.

Music Maker Relief Foundation

The Music Maker Relief Foundation is a non-profit organization that helps Southern musicians gain recognition and meet day-to-day needs. Many such musicians are living in poverty and need assistance. The Music Maker mission is "to give back to the roots of American music." Beneficiaries of the foundation are rooted in a Southern musical tradition, 55 years or older and have an annual income less than $18,000.

The foundation supply assistance in grants, instrument acquisition, tour support and emergency relief

To help, contact the Music Maker Relief Foundation, Inc. at Rt. 1 Box 567, Pinnacle, NC 27043. Phone: (336) 325-2505. E-mail mmrf1@aol.com. Web site: www.musicmaker.org.

American Music Jubilee Christmas Show

"An Evening of Southern Hospitality, Great American Music and Side Splitting Comedy" will play Friday and Saturday night in Selma from the last weekend in November through Dec. 31. A 10-member cast combines comedy skits with traditional and modern Christmas music. Comedy show starts at 7:40 p.m. and music show at 8.

Visit their web site at www.amjubilee.com or call (877) 843-7839.

BATTLESHIP NORTH CAROLINA

Battleship "North Carolina" contest for students

The battleship "North Carolina" is sponsoring a contest for students in grades K-12 in which they interview a military veteran and produce art, an essay or media presentation that reflects what they learn. Lesson plans for teachers are available.

The battleship from 1941 to 1947 served in World War II and since October 1961 has been a memorial to its veterans.

Entries are due at the battleship by Oct. 13 at 4 p.m. In addition to receiving prizes, three grand-prize winners will be hosted in Wilmington at a dinner onboard ship or a pizza party. Contest information, entry forms and lesson plans are available at www.battleship-nc.com or by calling (910) 251-5797.

Get the shot, not the flu

The ideal time for flu shots is during October.

What you can do to promote Senior Vaccination Season 2000

Bring a friend with you when you get immunized. If every senior brought a friend with him or her, a significantly higher proportion of senior North Carolinians would get immunized.

Tell 10 seniors about Senior Vaccination Season and when and where immunization clinics are being held. Call your local health department or 1-800-LUNG-USA for the nearest clinic.

If you have a senior center in your community, make sure it is involved in Senior Vaccination Season. Senior centers are an ideal location for immunization clinics.

Organize transportation for seniors who can't drive.

Involve your church in Senior Vaccination Season. Many churches around the state organize an immunization clinic after services on Sundays in October. Contact your local health department or a home health agency in your area to help organize this event for your church.

Get the facts. Flu and pneumonia shots will not make you sick! The fact is modern vaccinations will not harm you. If you have any questions about whether you should receive immunizations, call your doctor or your local health department.

Call your local health department or 1-800-LUNG-USA for the nearest clinic

Everyone knows that influenza, or the flu, can make you miserable. But it can be far more disabling and dangerous than that. Consider these facts: Entertainer Natalie Cole was scheduled to sing at a recent Academy Awards presentation, but she had to cancel because she had the flu. Tennis stars Pete Sampras and Boris Becker have lost major tennis matches when they contracted the flu. The king of the one-liners, Henny Youngman, died on February 24, 1998 of complications from the flu. Shari Lewis, creator of the puppet Lamb Chop, died of pneumonia at age 65. The list goes on and on.

Could any of these tragedies have been prevented? In most cases, the answer is yes, with a simple flu shot. The flu vaccine is safe and effective and cannot give you the flu or pneumonia, as many people fear. Rather, it vastly improves your chances of avoiding the flu as well as pneumonia, which often is a more serious complication of the flu.

October 2000 has been designated Senior Vaccination Season in North Carolina. The campaign is spearheaded by Medical Review of North Carolina, the Department of Health and Human Services and a coalition of volunteer, medical and health care organizations. Its purpose is to increase the number of adults age 65 and over who are appropriately vaccinated against these two potentially fatal or debilitating illnesses — flu and pneumonia.

"People have a profound misperception of what influenza or 'the flu' is," according to Gregory A. Poland, M.D., chair of the National Coalition for Adult Immunizations and professor of medicine at the Mayo Clinic. "People call fever, muscle aches, vomiting and diarrhea 'the flu'. Those symptoms aren't the flu. True influenza is a disease that causes high fevers and profound bone and muscle aches that can put you in bed for several days."

Ten to 20 percent of Americans contract influenza annually. On average, more than 20,000 Americans die each year from flu-related illness. Although vaccines that protect against flu and pneumonia are readily available, they are under-utilized. In North Carolina, Medicare Part B claims data shows that only 50 percent of Caucasian and 27 percent of African-American beneficiaries received influenza immunizations in 1998. The rate of pneumococcal vaccinations, the vaccine for pneumonia, are even lower: 30 percent and 17 percent, respectively.

People 65 years of age and older are most vulnerable to influenza, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). An estimated 2,000 older adults will die this year from the flu and pneumonia in North Carolina alone. The elderly are also one of the major groups at risk of suffering from pneumonia, which is mainly caused by pneumococcal germs that can be targeted by the pneumococcal vaccine. A simple shot, given at the right time, can drastically change these predicted outcomes. The ideal time for flu shots is during October. Pneumonia shots can be given at any time of the year.

Since the influenza virus changes from year to year, an annual flu shot is necessary. But the pneumonia vaccine provides protection for a lifetime for most people. The cost of both shots is covered by Medicare Part B, Medicaid and very often, private health insurance.

Don't leave your health or the health of your loved ones to chance. For more information about times and locations of immunization clinics, please contact your county's health department.

CAROLINA PRESERVES

by William Mangum

"Winter's Retreat"

William Mangum Fine Art of Greensboro has collaborated with the North Carolina Museum of History and UNC-TV in a multi-fated appreciation for North Carolina entitled "Carolina Preserves."

The project includes a 164-page fine art book showcasing 130 of Mangum's paintings of North Carolina scenes and people, a 60-minute public television production and an exhibit at the Museum of History.

"Carolina Preserves," says artist William Mangum, was inspired by his Aunt Kate, whom he would watch preserve fresh fruits and vegetables in her kitchen in Mamers, where her electric co-op is South River EMC.

"The program is not about cooking," Mangum says, "but about those special ingredients that make a person or a place a living treasure."

The book contains 45 stories by and about 48 North Carolinians, including Elizabeth Dole, Henry Frye, Billy and Ruth Graham, Michael Jordan, Richard Petty, James Rose, Bob Timberlake and Kay Yow. It costs $95.

UNC-TV's hour-long special is the station's first high-definition TV production. The program looks at people and places featured in Mangum's book. It will premiere on Saturday, Dec. 2. Videotapes are available

The Museum of History exhibit runs through November 5. It includes educational programs and a free activity guide.

Major funding came from Bank of America.

Here is contact information:

William Mangum Fine Art (800) 887-5380.

Museum of History (919) 715-0200.

UNC-TV (919) 549-7182 or www.unctv.org

www.carolinapreserves.com

What you should know about your septic system

by Roger A. Wesley

A public sewer is not available to the vast majority of North Carolina rural residents. They rely on septic systems (on-site treatment and disposal systems) as an effective means to dispose of the wastewater generated inside their homes. In 1999 more than 30,294 new septic systems were installed in North Carolina, and more than 4,944 existing septic systems were repaired. A properly functioning septic system will provide the owner a way to dispose of wastewater without endangering the environment or public health. People not protected from raw, untreated sewage are exposed to a vast array of diseases.

Because of the health threat from sewage, North Carolina has enacted laws to protect us from the improper treatment and disposal of sewage. The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources has established rules for sewage treatment and disposal systems. It is the local health department — specifically the local environmental health office — that enforces those laws and rules. To ensure that septic systems do not harm the environment or endanger the public's health, individuals installing a new septic tank system or needing a repair to their existing septic system must contact their local environmental health office to obtain a permit.

Today's basic septic systems contain a concrete septic tank, usually 1,000 gallons in capacity. This tank makes use of a baffle wall inside it to pre-treat sewage by separating out the solids from the wastewater. The wastewater leaving the septic tank enters a drainfield where it is treated and absorbed by the soil. Drainfields are usually several 3-foot-wide trenches, separated by 6 feet of soil. The trench contains a 4-inch diameter corrugated pipe within 12 inches of stone. The trench is usually 24 to 36 inches deep in the ground. A distribution box or boxes properly distribute the wastewater leaving the tank and going to the drainfield.

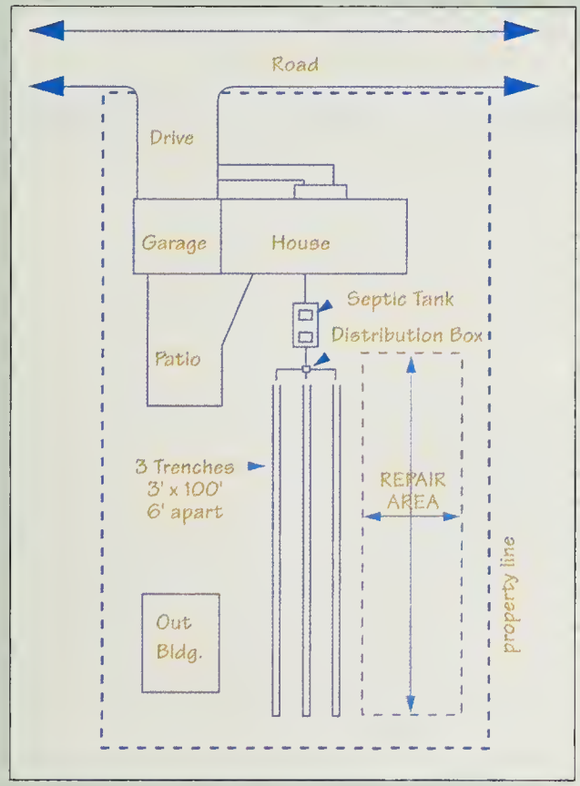
Newer tanks have filters to protect the drainfield from receiving any solid waste that gets past the baffle, and they are equipped with risers to enable easy access for pumping out the tank and cleaning its filters.

Health officials will issue permits for several types of septic systems that can be installed to overcome specific site problems. Examples of these systems are pump systems, panel block, chamber, low pressure pipe, sand filter, and mound systems. In some cases, installers can modify a site that at first may not be eligible for a permit. They can make surface or subsurface diversion ditches, or perform a supervised fill or cut.

Your local environmental health office maintains records on the septic systems installed in your county. In many cases, they will be able to look up your septic system record, tell you the type of system you have, the location of its components and any site modifications that were made.

The septic system is located on the same property where the residence is located and is sited in a manner to comply with required setbacks and topographic features. The drainfield size is based upon the predicted water use for the dwelling and the water absorption rate of the soil. North Carolina law requires that every property with a septic system must have a designated repair area on that property that would accept a new drainfield to replace one that fails. The reason for this is that the soil acts like a filter and at some time in the future will clog up and no longer absorb the wastewater. Wastewater will then surface and back up into the house or contaminate the ground water.

A property owner should not adopt an "out of sight, out of mind" attitude toward the septic system. Septic system owners are required by North Carolina Sewage rule 15A NCAC 18A .1961 to operate and maintain their systems so they will not endanger their health or public health. Maintaining your septic system will give it a functioning life of 20 to 30 years before it fails. The most important maintenance you should perform on a septic system is to have the tank pumped out every 3 to 5 years. For this reason, many homeowners have risers attached to



Typical layout for a residential septic system in North Carolina.

their septic tanks. The risers protrude above ground and allow for ease of pumping out the tank without digging up the ground over the tank.

On a day-to-day basis, you can be careful about water usage. Conserve water, correct any water leaks, avoid pouring grease and chemicals down your drains and limit any excess solids from going into your septic tank.

For more information, contact your local North Carolina Cooperative Extension office and ask for their publications on septic systems.

Roger A. Wesley is an environmental health supervisor for the Burke County Health Department. He has been involved with on-site wastewater work and other environmental health programs for the past 14 years. He is a registered sanitarian in North Carolina and nationally credentialed as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist.

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A changing electric utility marketplace spurs formation and expansion of co-ops in other states

Consumers and businesses interested in the advantages of cooperatives have brought about fundamental changes in states that are restructuring how electric utilities are regulated. They are forming new cooperatives and redefining existing ones.

Here are some recent reports from Electric Co-op TODAY, the weekly newspaper of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. For more information, visit www.nreca.org

Vermont co-ops gain flexibility

Vermont this summer enacted legislation that revised its enabling act to grant electric co-ops new flexibility. "An Act Related to Electric Cooperatives" marks the first substantive rewrite since the late 1940s of the Vermont enabling statute under which the state's two co-ops are organized. It allows co-ops to offer a range of energy and telecommunications services and products. Specifically, the act authorizes electric co-ops to be organized in Vermont to create or supply "energy, cable television, telecommunications, interactive media and Internet access" as well as "any other lawful business not inconsistent with this chapter which utilizes the electric distribution facilities of the cooperative." The act defines "energy" to include electrical, propane, natural gas, fossil fuels and other forms of energy.

Authorization is also provided for Vermont co-ops to "work cooperatively" with governmental entities and private sector institutions for economic or community development purposes.

The Vermont legislation also prohibits cross-subsidization, that is, electric revenues cannot subsidize non-electric activities. A similar provision applies to North Carolina electric co-ops that form subsidiaries in order to branch into other business services.

California forms a statewide co-op association

Californians formed a new cooperative, the Golden State Power Cooperatives, to provide a platform for existing electric distribution cooperatives and new aggregation cooperatives to work together. An aggregation cooperative is a group of cooperatives that purchase their power as one entity for the purpose of increasing their buying power. Golden State Power will serve as a statewide support organization to coordinate efforts in cooperative development, legislative issues and also serve as an aggregation cooperative itself to buy more affordable electricity.

California's retail electricity market was opened to competition in April 1998. And according to Robert Marshall, general manager of a new distribution co-op, Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative, many opportunities and discount power contracts that were available before California began retail choice have evaporated.

"We don't see anybody worried about the little guys," said Marshall.

The Golden State association allows cooperatives in California to pool their resources and talents in the form of a combined statewide organization, said Marshall. "Our key issues are the same whether it be the need for reliable power sources, dealing with legislative issues or working to develop new and existing cooperatives."

North Carolina's electric cooperatives have had similar statewide organizations for more than 50 years. One is the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, publisher of Carolina Country magazine, and another is a statewide power supply cooperative, North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation.

An electric co-op in New York City

Three years ago in New York City, residents of housing cooperatives formed the first electric co-op to operate in a major city. The 1st Rochdale co-op serves more than 500,000 New York families who live in and own housing cooperatives. The primary goal of 1st Rochdale is to lower its members' total energy bills. While it does not own distribution wires and delivery systems, 1st Rochdale is involved with other co-ops in the delivery of energy management services, development of energy conservation and generation strategies, as well as group purchase of electricity and fuels.

Glenn English, the CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, which 1st Rochdale has joined, said, "1st Rochdale proves that whether in an urban, suburban or rural setting, electric cooperatives give people a voice in how they secure one of the necessities of life."

Chicago has an inner-city energy co-op

An innovative non-profit organization has chosen the electric cooperative as the best model to tackle inner-city power outages. The Chicago-based Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) established The Energy Cooperative in early July as part of a 3-year pilot project designed to reduce electricity demand in targeted Chicago communities. Commonwealth Edison Co. (ComED), the investor-owned utility that supplies electricity to the Chicago area, will provide $14.7 million in start-up funds to the co-op over three years in order to cut energy demands in neighborhoods that are susceptible to outages during peak electricity consumption.

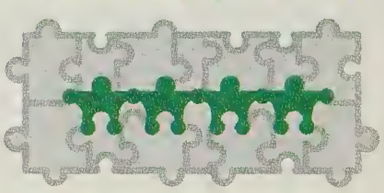
The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, with assistance from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and National Rural Cooperative Finance Corporation, has taken a lead role in the development of the co-op.

CNT Chief Executive Officer Robert Lieberman said, "With the restructuring of the electricity industry, the co-op will be able to negotiate on behalf of its members to get better prices for power."

According to the co-op, participation in their programs will save members money on their energy bills. The co-op also said that a portion of the money saved through reductions in energy use will go to community development projects.

In the past, ComEd has made cash energy-reduction payments available only to commercial customers. Through the co-op, ComEd will be offering similar benefits to households for the first time.

COOPERATIVES



Businesses People Trust

Voters on Nov. 7 will consider $3.1 BILLION FOR COLLEGE FACILITIES

The Nov. 7 general election ballot will include a ballot question asking voters if they approve a $3.1 billion bond for the state's higher education system. The bond would provide $600 million for the state's 59 community colleges and $2.5 billion for the University of North Carolina's 16 public university campuses. Funds will be used to construct new buildings and modernize existing ones.

The money would be issued over a six-year period beginning in 2001, and repaid over a 25-year period. The $600 million designated for community colleges will require about $113 million in local matching funds from non-state sources.

According N.C. State Treasurer Harlan Boyles, the state and counties will not have to raise taxes to repay the bonds. "The bonds will significantly ease the property tax burden of county governments when it comes to upgrading community colleges," Boyles said. "The counties have historically borne the lion's share of the facility improvements at community colleges. With the bond, that burden will be significantly reduced."

Each year, about 1 million North Carolina citizens attend the state's community colleges and public universities. Within the next 10 years, total enrollment is expected to rise by 100,000 students, a 30 percent increase. The building renovations and new construction are expected to meet the requirements of an expanding student body.

Community colleges are key to the economy

"The mission of the North Carolina community college system is the same as it was when the system was established more than 35 years ago," said Martin Lancaster, president of the N.C. Community College System, "to equip North Carolinians for real jobs with real futures. But we must have adequate facilities to enable us to provide the education and training to our growing enrollments."

Community colleges provide North Carolina's industries with quality workers, Lancaster said. "We train the technicians who maintain our state's infrastructure, the day care workers who provide quality child care, the nurses who care for the sick, the truck drivers who deliver our goods and the law enforcement and emergency workers who keep us safe," he said.

For more information on the higher education bond, visit the North Carolinians for Educational Opportunity Web site at www.ncfeo.net, or call (919) 754-1156. NCFEO is a joint project developed by the state's community colleges and university system.

N.C. electric cooperatives work hand-in-hand with community colleges

North Carolina's electric cooperatives have had close ties to community colleges ever since the colleges were established. Co-ops sponsor educational programs and events, they deliver lighting and other services, and they generally support the missions of the colleges as a resource for co-op member families and businesses. Here are some examples:

- The North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives for many years has had a training site at Nash Community College that includes transmission structures, above ground and underground distribution facilities. Co-op lineman are offered more than 500 hours of instruction here, through six levels of training that ranges from basic principles of electricity, First Aid, lifesaving skills, and the National Electric Safety Code, through several levels of overhead and underground line construction. Plans include construction of a distribution substation at the college as well. NCAEC and Nash began offering an electric lineman technology degree program during the 1998-1999 school year.
- South River EMC, headquartered in Dunn, offers four $500 Kesler Butler Scholarships per academic year for qualifying students attending local community colleges (Johnston Community College, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Central Carolina Community College and Sampson Community College). The students must be co-op members or live in a home served by the co-op. The colleges' financial aid offices handle the selection process.
- Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Morehead City, through its Carteret-Craven Electric Foundation, recently made a financial commitment of $25,000 to Carteret Community College to help equip the new science labs in the new Center For Marine Science and Technology building. The building is a joint venture between N.C. State University, UNC-Chapel Hill and the community. The building houses programs from all three institutions.
- Blue Ridge Electric, headquartered in Lenoir, has made a commitment to supporting educational opportunities throughout its service area. The co-op works closely with two community colleges: Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute and Wilkes Community College. The co-op supports a variety of programs and projects for both colleges, most recently helping launch a Career Center at CCC&TI, which is a partnership of county educational agencies, community leaders and local business and industry. The Career Center is a first of its kind in the state – a high school on a community college campus that will provide job training and redefine the term "seamless transition" to post-secondary study.

ENERGY CENTS

Filters remove contaminants and improve water's taste

By James Dulley

Even if your water is from a public supply, it may still contain contaminants that may be harmful, particularly to children and the elderly. By the time water gets to your house, the chlorine level may have often dropped to the point where it may have gotten reinfected in route to your home. It may not be a bad idea to have your water tested.

Although there are many specific models, brands and trade names of water filters, the basic options can be broken down into distillation, reverse osmosis (RO), ozone, ultraviolet light (UV) and carbon. Each type has its advantages for improving various water problems.

Countertop electric distillers are effective for improving most common water problems and removing most contaminants. Since the water boils during the distillation process, it is also disinfected. The water vapor condenses and drips into a gallon jug. Once the jug is filled, slip it out and store it in your refrigerator.

I have used a small countertop distiller for years at my own home. It has a replaceable carbon filter bag that fits into the water outlet spout. This removes some volatile chemicals that vaporize and condense with the water and improves the taste. The only drawback that I ever found is that it takes about four hours to produce one gallon of pure water.

RO systems are also effective for most common drinking water problems. These systems produce filtered water as you use it. This eliminates the chances of recontamination when the filtered water is stored.

These units use an RO membrane that acts like a super-sieve to filter out almost everything in the water. Most units also have pre- and post-carbon filter cartridges to remove chemicals. The only drawback to these units is that they use more water than is actually purified, so some is wasted and lost down the drain. This should be a consideration in water-scarce areas.

Ozone gas purifiers are extremely effective and leave no residual chemicals in the water. Many municipal water plants now treat all their water with ozone gas. In addition to killing bacteria, cysts and viruses, it improves the taste. Ozone quickly dissipates from the water, so there are no harmful health effects from it. UV purifiers pass an intense light beam through the flow of water inside the unit.

Small portable ozone purifiers are also ideal for camping or during emergencies. Hang the tube and bubbler stone in a jug of water and switch it on. Another good use is to purify and clean fresh fruits and vegetables. Fill your sink with water. Place the food and bubble stone in for a few minutes.

Carbon filters improve flavor and remove some chemicals. To filter out impurities, a solid carbon block is better than a granular carbon filter. Granular ones are often used as post-filters for other types of filters. Some new kitchen faucets have a carbon filter element built into the neck. So that you remember to replace the element, they have reminder lights. Consider a mini-RO unit (quick-disconnect aerator) for use on most faucets.

The electricity costs to operate a water filter depends on the specific design. Distillers, since they use electricity to boil the water, will push up your electric bills the most — about 25 cents per gallon. In the winter, this electricity ends up as heat in your house, so the net cost is much lower. In the summer, use it in your garage or other unconditioned space.

Ozone generator units use a small corona discharge ozone generator. To purify one gallon of water, it is recommended to run it for 15 minutes. At only 24 watts, this costs less than a penny per gallon. Ultraviolet water purifiers also use only about 30 watts of electricity. Many replacement carbon filter elements are priced in the $20 range.

If you are a biker or runner, there are now special filtering water bottles to remove impurities, cysts, bad flavor, etc. They fit most bottle holders.

Write for (or instantly download at www.dulley.com) Update Bulletin No. 415: buyer's guide of 15 water purifier/filter manufacturers, filtration types, styles, features, prices, illustrations and recommended filter selector charts for hazardous contaminants. Please include $3 and a business-size SASE. James Dulley, Carolina Country, P.O. Box 54987, Cincinnati, OH 45254.

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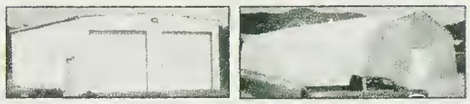

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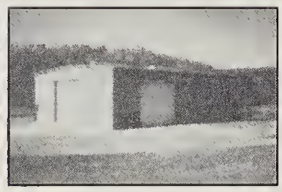

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Me: *"What shall I do with this leftover chicken? Put it in the refrigerator?"*

She: *"No, just throw it out."*

Me: "All this chicken that was so good?"

She: *"Okay, put it in the refrigerator. I'll throw it out."*

JOYNER'S CORNER

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Word play

ward-war-way-lay

To go from **Front** to **Back** you must drop a letter in the first step of this ladder-gram, then change a letter each subsequent step, spelling a word on each rung. Your answers may be different from ours.

F R O N T

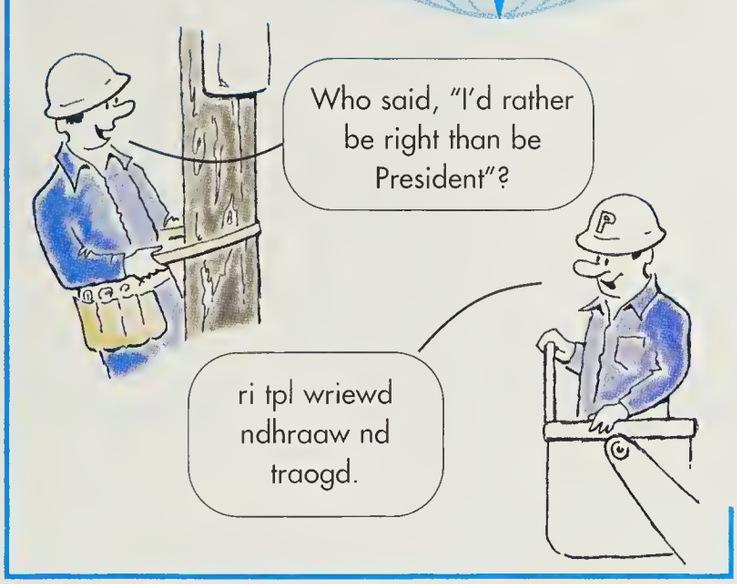
_ _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _

_ _ _ _

B A C K

Percy P. Cassidy Poles Apart



Use the capital letters below to decode the gag above.

"ABEHI LOR STUVW" means
power and light

Digit Detection

	O	C	T	O	B	E	R
9							
8							X
7							X
6							
5							
4							
3							X
2	X						X
1	X						
0	X						

O-C=T T-B=R E-R=R $(OC)^2$=TBER

OCTOBER= _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Given the simultaneous equations above, can you find the value of **October**? Each letter stands for a digit. Use the grid to eliminate impossibilities. For example, no square ends in 2, 3 , 7, or 8. Therefore **R** is not 2, 3, 7, or 8. No number less than 32 has a four-digit square. Therefore **O** is greater than 2.

Answers on page 45

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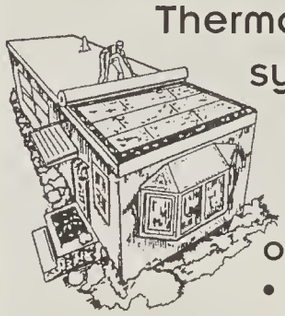

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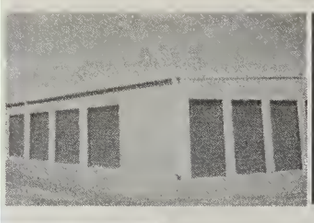

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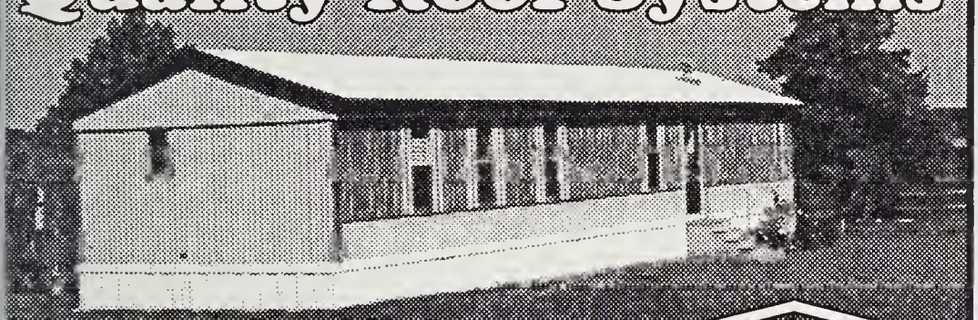

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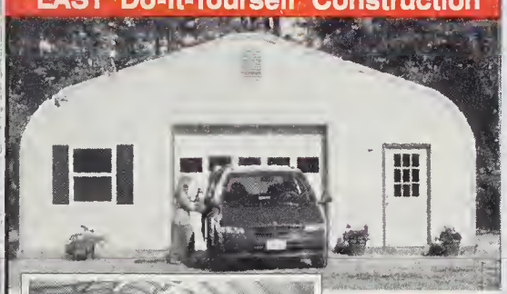

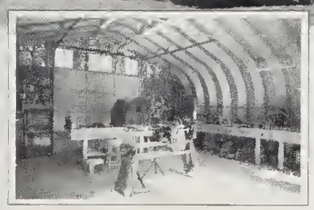

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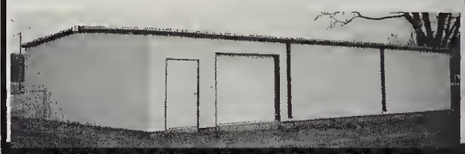

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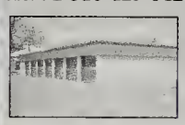

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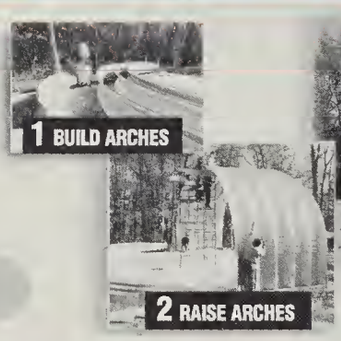

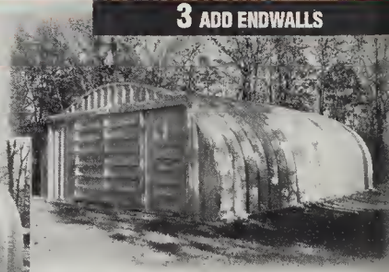

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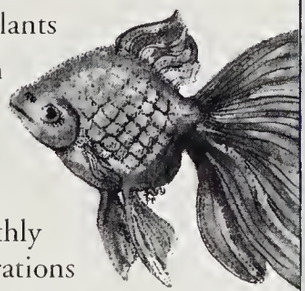

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October

MOUNTAINS

"West Side Story"
Through Oct. 1, Flat Rock
Musical, Flat Rock Playhouse, (828) 693-0731

Thomas Wolfe's Angels
Through Oct. 3, Asheville
Photo exhibit, Pack Place Exhibit Hall, (828) 253-8304

"Children of Eden"
Sept. 25-Oct. 15, Waynesville
Family musical, Performing Arts Center, (828) 456-6322

Haywood County Fair
Sept. 26-Oct. 1, Waynesville
(828) 456-3575

"Look Homeward, Angel"
Sept. 29-Oct. 15, Asheville
Play based on novel, Thomas Wolfe Memorial Visitors Center, 8 p.m., (828) 253-4931

Michaelmas: English Harvest Fair
Sept. 30-Oct. 29, Asheville
Weekends, Biltmore Estate, (800) 543-2916

The Old Barn and Other Architectural Relics
Through Nov. 15, Asheville
Folk Art Center, (828) 298-7928, www.southernhighlandguild.org

Thomas Wolfe Celebration
Oct. 1 & 3, Asheville
Thomas Wolfe Memorial Visitors Center, (828) 253-8304

"The Woman in Black"
Oct. 4-22, Flat Rock
Play, Flat Rock Playhouse, (828) 693-0731

High Country Quilt Show
Oct. 5-7, Maggie Valley
9 a.m.-5 p.m., (828) 926-1686

"There's No Place Like Home" Exhibit
Oct. 5-Nov. 16, West Jefferson
Ashe Arts Center, (336) 246-ARTS

McDowell Saddle and Bridle Club Equestrian Show
Oct. 6, Marion
Backyard Fun Show, 1 p.m., $2, under 12 free, (828) 738-3738

Junaluska Singer Fall Concert
Oct. 6-7, Lake Junaluska
Stuart Auditorium, 7:30 p.m., $10, (828) 452-2881

Fall Arts and Crafts Festival
Oct. 6-7, Canton
(828) 648-2002

Octoberfest
Oct. 6-7, Old Fort
Mountain Gateway Museum, (828) 668-7223

Black Mountain Music Festival
Oct. 6-8, Black Mountain
(800) 828-4244

Forest Festival Day
Oct. 7, Cradle of Forestry
10 a.m.-5 p.m., (828) 877-3130, www.cradleofforestry.com

Autumn Fest
Oct. 7, Union Grove
Fiddler's Grove Campground, (704) 539-4417

Brushy Mountain Apple Festival
Oct. 7, North Wilkesboro
(828) 898-5605

Farm City Day
Oct. 7, Hendersonville
Jackson Park, (800) 828-4244, www.historicflatrock.org

Autumn at Oz
Oct. 7, Beech Mountain
(828) 898-5605

Art in the Park
Oct. 7, Blowing Rock
American Legion Grounds, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Free, (828) 295-7851, www.blowingrock.com

Octoberfest
Oct. 7, Beech Mountain
(828) 898-5605

Octoberfest
Oct. 7, Sugar Mountain
(828) 898-5605

Fall Plant & Craft Sale and Festival
Oct. 7, Belmont
Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., $4 adults, $2 12 and under, (704) 825-4490, www.dsbg.org

Mountain Home Music
Oct. 7, 12-15, 19-21, Blowing Rock
Various Artists, Blowing Rock Arts Center, 8 p.m., (828) 264-8118, www.blowingrock.com

Fall Celebration of the Arts
Oct. 7-14, Spruce Pine
Toe River Arts Building, (828) 682-7215

Colonial Living Day
Oct. 8, Statesville
Fort Dobbs, (704) 873-5866

John McCutcheon in Concert
Oct. 8, West Jefferson
Folk music, Ashe Civic Center, (336) 246-ARTS

"Blue Ridge"
Oct. 13, West Jefferson
Music, Ashe Civic Center, 7:30 p.m., $10, (336) 246-4483, www.ashecivic.com

Frog Level Antique Show & Sale
Oct. 13-15, Waynesville
Waynesville Recreation Center, (828) 456-3517

Lake Eden Arts Festival
Oct. 13-15, Black Mountain
Music, dance, crafts, Camp Rockmont, (828) 686-8742, www.theLEAF.com

"In the Spirit of Elvis"
Oct. 14, West Jefferson
Music, Ashe Civic Center, 7:30 p.m., (336) 246-4483, www.ashecivic.com

Mountain Glory Festival
Oct. 14, Marion
Downtown, (828) 652-2215

Todd New River Festival
Oct. 14, West Jefferson
9 a.m., (336) 877-1067

Church Street Art & Craft Show
Oct. 14, Waynesville
10 a.m.-5 p.m., (828) 456-3517

Motorama New Car Show
Oct. 14, Flat Rock
Main Street, (828) 693-9061

Autumn Colors Autorama
Oct. 14, Flat Rock
Downtown, (828) 891-8871

Southern Highland Craft Fair, Oct. 19-22

Southern Highland Craft Fair
Oct. 19-22, Asheville
Asheville Civic Center, $5, (828) 298-7928, www.southernhighlandguild.org

Fall Quilt Show
Oct. 20-22, Flat Rock
National Guard Armory, (828) 891-5027

Family Day
Oct. 21, Olin
At Baa-Moo Farms, (704) 876-1732

Patsy Cline: A Musical Tribute
Oct. 21, Marion
7 p.m., (828) 652-8610

Taylorsville Apple Festival
Oct. 21, Taylorsville
9 a.m.-4 p.m., (828) 632-2999

Hillbilly Comedy & Variety Show
Oct. 21, Sparta
Sparts Elementary School Auditorium, 7 p.m., $5, under 12 free, (336) 372-7284

Apple Festival
Oct. 21, Waynesville
10 a.m.-5 p.m., (828) 456-3575

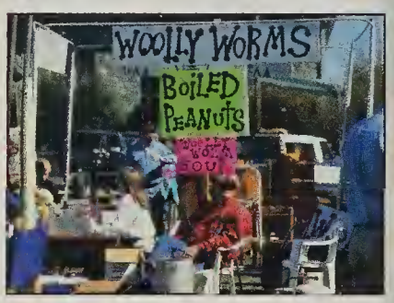
Valle Crucis Country Fair
Oct. 21, Valle Crucis
(828) 963-6511

Chili Cook-off
Oct. 21, Love Valley
(704) 592-7451

Dollar Brothers in Concert
Oct. 21, West Jefferson
Bluegrass, gospel, Ashe Civic Center, 7:30 p.m., $10, (336) 246-4483, www.ashecivic.com

Books are Fun
Oct. 21-22, Chimney Rock
Sales benefit Pinnacle Elementary School, top parking lot, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., (828) 625-9611, www.chimneyrockpark.com

Fall Arts and Crafts Festival
Oct. 21-22, Maggie Valley
9 a.m.-4 p.m., (828) 926-8021



Woolly Worm Festival, Oct. 21-22

Woolly Worm Festival
Oct. 21-22, Banner Elk
(800) 972-2183

Tweetsie Railroad Ghost Train
All Oct. weekends; daily, Oct. 24-31, Blowing Rock
Tweetsie Railroad, (828) 898-5605

Concert
Oct. 27, West Jefferson
Jeff Little, Randy Greer, Wayne Henderson, Ashe Civic Center, 7:30 p.m., $10, (336) 246-4483, www.ashecivic.com

Freaky Friday
Oct. 27, Belmont
Kids' Halloween festival, Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, 7 p.m., $10, free for accompanying adults, (704) 825-4490, www.dsbg.org

"The Legend of Tommy Hodges"
Oct. 27-28, Cradle of Forestry
Mystery, On the Biltmore Campus Trail, (828) 877-3130, www.cradleofforestry.com

Apple Festival
Oct. 28, Boone
Horn in the West, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., (828) 264-2120

Yadkin Valley Pumpkin Festival
Oct. 28, Elkin
Downtown, (336) 526-1111

Hickory Ridge Homestead Apple Festival
Oct. 28, Boone
(828) 898-5605

Monster Mash
Oct. 28, Belmont
Adult Halloween Costume Party, Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, $25, (704) 825-4490, www.dsg.org

Southeastern Fiber Fair
Oct. 28-29, Fletcher
Western N.C. Ag Center, (828) 687-1414

America's Clogging Hall of Fame Competition
Oct. 28-29, Maggie Valley
The Stompin' Ground, (828) 926-1288

Suzanne & Jim, Traveling Troubadors
Oct. 29, Old Fort
Mountain Gateway Museum, 3 p.m., Free, (828) 668-9259

PIEDMONT

Carolina Butterfly Pavilion
Through Oct. 1, Durham
Museum of Life and Science, (919) 220-5429

England and America: Collaboration in Clay
Through Feb. 11, Charlotte
Pottery exhibit, Mint Museum of Art, (704) 337-2000, www.mintmuseum.org

Unseen Treasures, through Dec. 31

Unseen Treasures: Imperial Russia & the New World
Through Dec. 31, Charlotte
Art exhibit of Russian artifacts, Mint Museum of Art, (704) 337-2000, www.mintmuseum.org

"Interiors"
Through Dec. 3, Raleigh
Exhibit, N.C. Museum of Art, (919) 839-6262

"Beakman's World"
Through Jan. 7, 2001, Durham
Interactive displays, Museum of Life and Science, (919) 220-5429

Malcolm Blue Farm Festival
Sept. 29-Oct. 1, Aberdeen
Malcolm Blue Farm, Civil War reenactment, crafts, food, music, (910) 944-7685

Textile Heritage Festival
Sept. 30, Cooleemee
(336) 284-6040

Fall Herb Festival
Sept. 30-Oct. 1, Greensboro
Workshops on herbs, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., (336) 605-9157

Pumpkin Festival
Sept. 30-Oct. 1, Goldston
Hart's Pumpkin Farm, (919) 837-5363

Festifall
Oct. 1, Chapel Hill
West Franklin St., 1-6 p.m., (919) 968-2784

"Prince and the Pauper"
Oct. 3, Mocksville
Play, Brock Performing Arts Center, 1 p.m. & 7 p.m., (336) 751-3000

Hardee's/Boy Scouts Benefit Golf Tournament
Oct. 5-6, Southern Pines
Mid Pines Inn & Golf Club and Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club, (910) 692-2114

SECCA Santa
Oct. 5-7, Winston-Salem
Pre-holiday shopping, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, $5, (336) 725-1904

Railroad Days & Antiques Festival
Oct. 5-8, Selma
Downtown, (919) 965-9841

Oktoberfest International
Oct. 5-15, Ft. Bragg
Ft. Bragg Fairgrounds, 5 p.m.-midnight, (910) 396-3919

Greek Festival
Oct. 6-8, Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill High School, (919) 933-4297

Old Salem 1950-2000: Historic Preservation
Oct. 6-April 6, Winston-Salem
50th Anniversary Display, The Gallery at Old Salem, (336) 721-7300

High School Rodeo
Oct. 6-7, Marshville
BaR L Arena, $8 adults, $5 children, (704) 624-6487

Sonker Festival
Oct. 7, Low Gap
Edwards-Franklin House, 1-5 p.m., Free, (336) 786-8359

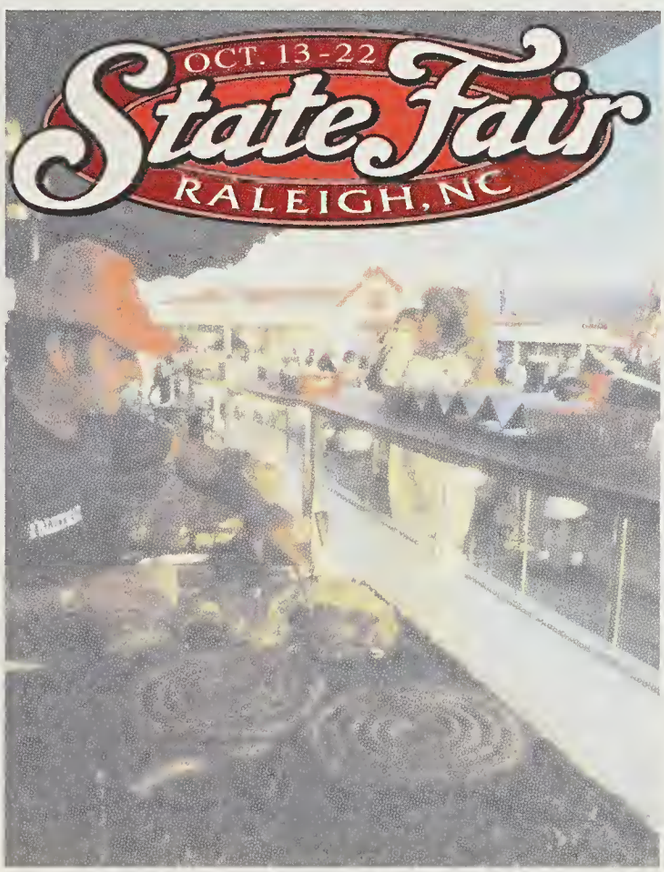
Festival of the Autumn Moon
Oct. 7, Hillsborough
The Burwell School, 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Free, (919) 929-2691

Steam Fest
Oct. 7, Spencer
N.C. Transportation Museum, (704) 636-2889

Southern Voices: Black, White & Blues
Oct. 7, Mocksville
Blues guitar and poetry, Brock Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m., $15, (336) 751-3000

Fiddler's Convention
Oct. 7, Granite Quarry
East Rowan High School, 7 p.m., (704) 279-5674

Colonial Games and Childhood
Oct. 7, Raleigh
Joel Lane Museum House, 1-4 p.m., (919) 833-3431



2000 N. C. State Fair

Dorton Arena Entertainment

Friday, Oct. 13 through Sunday, Oct. 22, 2000

All Shows Free on a first-come, first-serve basis.

All Shows start at 7:00 p.m. each night

Friday, October 13 - Montgomery Gentry
Saturday, October 14 - War
Sunday, October 15 - Avalon
Monday, October 16 - George Jones
Tuesday, October 17 - Yankee Grey
Wednesday, October 18 - Asleep at the Wheel
Thursday, October 19 - Lila McCann
Friday, October 20 - 38 Special
Saturday, October 21 - Brad Paisley
Sunday, October 22 - Willie Nelson

Autumnfest & Road Race
Oct. 7, Southern Pines
(910) 692-2463

Antiques Fair
Oct. 7, Cameron
Main Street, 10 a.m.-until,
(910) 245-7001

Pumpkin Festival
Oct. 7, Greensboro
Piedmont Triad Farmers Market,
10 a.m.-1 p.m., (336) 605-9157

J.E.B. Stuart Encampment
Oct. 7-8, Ararat, Va.
Laurel Hill Homeplace,
(336) 789-1355

Custom Car and Truck Show
Oct. 7-8, Aberdeen
Aberdeen Lake,
(910) 944-5902

The Dinosaurs of Jurassic Park: The Lost World
Oct. 7-Jan. 15, Raleigh
Traveling exhibit,
N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences,
(919) 733-7450,
w.naturalsciences.org

Ansel Adams Exhibit
Oct. 8-Jan. 7, Raleigh
N.C. Museum of Art,
(919) 839-6262

Don McLean with Janis Ian in Concert
Oct. 13, Winston-Salem
Stevens Center, 8 p.m.,
(336) 721-1945

Autumn Leaves Festival
Oct. 13-15, Mount Airy
Downtown, Craft Show at
Mayberry Mall, (336) 786-6116

North Carolina State Fair
Oct. 13-22, Raleigh
N.C. State Fairgrounds,
(919) 821-7400

Fall Pottery Sale
Oct. 14, Charlotte
Benefits Habitat for Humanity,
McAlpine Business Park,
10 a.m.-4 p.m., (704) 548-8666

Ansel Adams Photography Exhibit, Oct. 8- Jan. 7

Re-enactment Youth Days
Oct. 14, Waxhaw
Ages 10-17, Museum of the Waxhaws,
(704) 843-1832

Radford Highlanders Festival
Oct. 14, Radford, Va.
Radford University and downtown, (540) 831-5324,
www.radford.edu/festival

Antique Car Show
Oct. 14, Spencer
N.C. Transportation Museum,
(704) 636-2889

"Showboat"
Oct. 16,
Winston-Salem
Stevens Center, 8 p.m.,
(336) 721-1945

Art Exhibit
Oct. 17-22, Sanford
Sanford Brush and Palette Club,
National Guard Armory, Free,
(919) 499-2255

"Anything Goes"
Oct. 19, Winston-Salem
Stevens Center, 8 p.m.,
(336) 721-1945

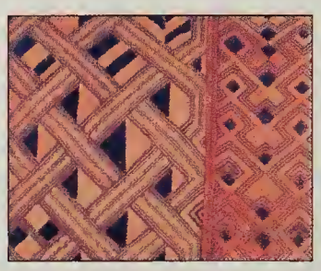
Salem Fest
Oct. 19-21, Winston-Salem
(336) 722-0066

Craft Fair
Oct. 20-22, Greensboro
Piedmont Triad Farmers Market,
(336) 605-9157

Big Lick Antique Festival
Oct. 20-22, Oakboro
$5, Free under 12,
(704) 485-4906,
www.hinsonauction.com

Holly Arts and Crafts Festival
Oct. 21, Pinehurst
10 a.m.-4 p.m., (910) 246-1016

Cornshucking Frolic
Oct. 21, Pinnacle
Horne Creek Living Historical Farm, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Free,
(336) 325-2298



Designing in Raffia: Oct. 21-Jan. 7

Designing in Raffia: Kuba Embroideries from the Congo
Oct. 21-Jan. 7, Raleigh
N.C. Museum of Art,
(919) 839-6262

Horse and Mule Days
Oct. 27-28, Denton
Denton FarmPark, $5, $3 under 12, preschoolers free,
(336) 859-2755

N.C. Special Olympics Fall Games
Oct. 27-29, Charlotte
Different venues, (800) 843-6276,
www.sonc.net

Aberdeen Halloween
Oct. 28, Aberdeen
Ages 3-10, Aberdeen Lake,
4-6 p.m., (910) 944-5902

Fall Festival, Car Show, Craft & Boot Fair
Oct. 28, Youngsville
(919) 556-5073

Seaboard Festival
Oct. 28, Hamlet
Main Street, (910) 997-6997

Natural History Halloween
Oct. 28, Raleigh
N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences,
1-4 p.m., Free, (919) 733-7450

Boo at the Zoo
Oct. 28-29, Asheboro
All ages, N.C. Zoological Park,
(336) 879-7200, www.nczoo.org

Boo at the Zoo, Oct. 28-29

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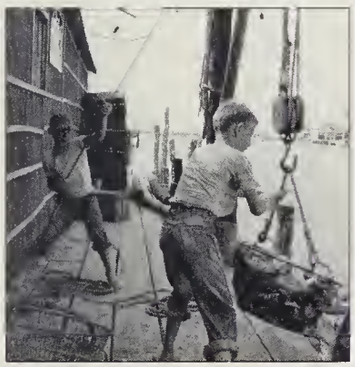
Trick or Train
Oct. 28-31, Spencer
N.C. Transportation Museum,
(704) 636-2889

The Bloody Reign of the Mad Miner
Oct. 28 & 31, Stanfield
Reed Gold Mine, (704) 721-4653

Great Pumpkin Hunt Halloween Fest
Oct. 31, Greensboro
Piedmont Triad Farmers Market,
5-8 p.m., (336) 605-9157

COAST

"Ocracoke Island, 1955"
Through Nov. 26, Ocracoke
Photo exhibit, Ocracoke
Preservation Society Museum,
(252) 928-7375



Ocracoke exhibit through Nov. 26

African-American Builders & Architects in NC: 1730-1865
Through Dec. 31, Elizabeth City
Exhibit, Museum of the
Albemarle, Free, (252) 335-1453

City Works Exhibit
Through Dec. 18, Wilmington
Wilmington Children's
Museum, (910) 254-3534

Andrew Wyeth & Bob Timberlake Exhibit
Through Oct. 22,
Wilmington
St. John's Museum of Art,
(910) 763-0281

Friends of David Walker Festival
Sept. 30-Oct. 1, Wilmington
Martin Luther King
Community Center, Robert
Strange Park,
(910) 763-3935

Holiday Fantasy
Sept. 30-Oct. 1, Wilmington
Crafts, Trask Coliseum,
UNC-W, 10 a.m.,
(910) 371-1914

Colonial Songfest
Oct. 5, New Bern
Tryon Palace Auditorium,
7 p.m., Free, (252) 514-4900

State of the Coast Summit
Oct. 6, Morehead City
North Carolina Coastal
Federation, (252) 393-8185,
www.nccoast.org

N.C. Seafood Festival
Oct. 6-8, Morehead City
(252) 726-6273

Dinner Theater
Oct. 7 & 21, Rose Hill
Duplin Winery, 6:30 p.m., $30.50
per person, (800) 774-9634,
www.duplinwinery.com

George Stephanopoulos, ABC News Analyst
Oct. 8, Elizabeth City
COA Auditorium, 6 p.m., $26,
(800) 335-9050

Chrysanthemum Festival
Oct. 13-15, New Bern
Tryon Palace, (252) 514-4900

Mullet Festival
Oct. 14, Swansboro
(910) 326-1174

Biblical Readings
Oct. 14, Elizabeth City
COA Auditorium, $14-18,
(800) 335-9050

Underwater Treasure Hunt
Oct. 14, Beaufort
(252) 728-2265

Fall Surf Fishing Tournament
Oct. 20-22, Carolina Beach
(910) 458-5400

Sound Country Celebration
Oct. 21, Edenton
Historic Edenton, (252) 482-3400

N.C. State Chili Cook-Off
Oct. 21, Havelock
Walter B. Jones City Park,
(252) 444-1496

North Carolina Seafood Festival Oct. 6-8

"From Arias to Alleluias"
Oct. 21, Oriental
Concert, Pamlico County Civic & Cultural Center, 8 p.m., $12,
(252) 249-3079,
www.pamlicomusic.org

Beaufort Mystery Walk
Oct. 23, Beaufort
Kids 8 and older with adult,
10 a.m.-12 p.m., $5 adults,
$2 children, (252)728-7317

New Bern at Night Ghost Walk
Oct. 26-28, New Bern
(252) 638-8558

Scary Stories
Oct. 27, Beaufort
For children with adult, N.C.
Maritime Museum, reservations
required, (252) 728-7317

Albemarle Craftsman's Fair
Oct. 27-29, Elizabeth City
Knobbs Creek Recreation Center,
(252) 335-5082

Halloween Festival
Oct. 27-29, Wilmington
Poplar Grove Plantation,
(919) 686-9518

Quilt Show
Oct. 28-29, Wilson
Wilson County Ag Center,
(252) 243-3868

Carolina Kite Fest
Oct. 28-29, Atlantic Beach
Sands Villa Resort,
(252) 247-7011

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Hank's Gardening Guide

By Hank Smith

With autumn's arrival, many deciduous trees leave summer behind with colorful displays of leaves. The forward-thinking landscaper will include such trees in long-range plans.

This month, roses make their last flush of color before the onset of dormancy. Mums and dahlias create masses of autumnal hues. Harvest your late autumn vegetables, and plan for winter plantings. Begin a map for introducing trees and shrubs to the landscape in the fall and winter. Buy flowering bulbs as a way of looking ahead to the colorful accents of springtime.

Hort Shorts

1. Humidity is an important factor in growing healthy houseplants during winter months, even though a plant is resting. A frequent misting is helpful. Place plant containers on a tray of pebbles. Keep pebbles damp by adding water each day.

2. Before planting bulbs in dry, hard soil work in a 4- to 6- inch layer of compost or old sawdust and about two quarts of complete commercial fertilizer per 100 square feet.

3. Continue deadheading (removing blooms) of flowering shrubs.
4. Take semi-ripe cuttings of flowering shrubs to increase next year's stock.

5. If leaves of shrubs are not diseased when they drop, leave them beneath plants to serve as over winter mulch. As they decay, they add nutrients to the soil.

6. Survey the ground to decide if any shrubs need to be transplanted. Although you won't move them until November (or when plant reaches winter dormancy), assess now. Dig holes in new locations so the job is half done.

7. Climbing roses need to be well anchored to supports. Winter winds can cause damage if they're allowed to sprawl on ground.

8. When ordering plants via mail, check the plant zones to be certain plants are adapted to good growth in your area.

9. Give stake support to tall-growing, large-flowering "football" type mums to prevent wind damage.

10. Gardening is more rewarding when the soil type suits healthy plant growth. Your local county Extension office can advise and assist in having soil tests.

Perennially yours

When transplanted in the fall, perennials have time to become established before cold weather. They will grow into larger plants next summer. All varieties, except those fall-flowering types, can be divided and transplanted now. This should be done at least every three years because often plants can get too large and crowded and lose vigor. Those with leaves dying back can be moved in the fall. Replant at the same level the plants were growing before. Remember to allow ½ to 1 inch for soil settlement. Make holes large enough for roots to grow normally. Firm soil around plants or bulbs so there will be no air pockets to deter emerging roots. If you add water at planting time you will help drive out air pockets. If October is a dry month in your area, give plants a deep final soaking so they will enter dormancy in good condition and be less susceptible to winterkill.

Control pests

Gather bagworm cocoons and tent caterpillar egg masses from trees and shrubs. This helps to control these pests next summer. If plants are badly infested with scale insects, spray with a dormant spray solution in the spring. Check all trees and shrubs for signs of insects. Apply insecticide if needed.

Indoor wintergreen grass

A bit of summer can be enjoyed indoors by planting rye grass seed. A shallow tray, covered with green burlap makes an ideal base. After scattering the seed over the damp burlap, place a tray in a spot that receives light — near a sunny window is ideal. Seeds will sprout in about two to three weeks. Once a week, feed with a mild solution of liquid houseplant fertilizer. This grassy base can be useful in displaying seasonal accents. A few fresh flowers from the florist may be placed in a low container of water to create an effective table centerpiece. Display knick-knacks or a small decorative statuary on the "indoor lawn" during winter holidays. "Mow" the lawn with sharp scissors. As rye grass begins to fade, seed another tray.

Vegetables

Start spinach seed in a sunny spot where soil has been enriched with compost. Scatter seed over an 18- to 24-inch wide bed. Rake gently to cover. Not only will spinach tolerate frost, but also its flavor will improve.

Gently lift maturing pumpkins, leaving stems attached to vine. Place pumpkins on overturned terra-cotta pots. This helps prevent rotting and discoloration from contact with soil.

Plant lettuce, onions, radishes, cabbage, mustard, and beets in early October. There's a good chance they'll mature before heavy frosts. Mature tomatoes from the summer garden often will ripen indoors if loosely wrapped in newspaper. Place them in a sunny window. To extend the supply, place some in a cool dark place such as the corner of the basement.

When planning for fall vegetables, sow seeds closer than needed. When seedlings are about an inch tall, begin thinning to provide space for the maturing plants that remain. Crowded seedlings will not develop properly because they are forced to compete for light and water as well as nutrients.

Prune with care: big leaf hydrangea

If pruning big leaf hydrangea (h.macrophylla) in the fall, the job must be done carefully so next year's crop of showy white, pink, or blue clustered flower heads will form. This species of hydrangea blooms on the tips of last year's growth. Cut out old canes with faded flowers. Leave all new shoots undisturbed because they will form flower buds in the spring. If weather becomes severe in late winter, give some protection to clumps or the delicate terminal buds will be killed.

Houseplant care

If the chore has not been tended earlier, now's a good time to repot houseplants to get them ready for the cooler season ahead. If plants have been over summering outdoors, inspect carefully to be certain they are not harboring insect nests. Remove any diseased or dead foliage. Pinch back tip growth to make a neat, compact, and tidy appearance. Repot in a sterile soil mix, which is available at garden supply stores. This type soil mix will supply plants with good aeration and moisture and nutrient holding capacity.

Give stake support to tall-growing, large-flowering "football" type mums to prevent wind damage.

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Poles Apart – IT WAS EITHER ORVILLE OR WILBUR.

Digit Detection – OCTOBER = 257184

CAROLINA KITCHEN

Mike Ditka's Official Tailgater's Pork Chops

8 one-inch thick pork rib chops
1 cup soy sauce
½ cup Dijon mustard
1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
4 cups orange juice
2 tablespoons chopped garlic
½ cup honey

In a mixing bowl, combine orange juice, soy sauce, garlic, mustard, honey and cayenne pepper. Mix together with a whisk. Pour over pork chops and marinate in the refrigerator for 12 to 24 hours. Remove pork from marinade; discard marinade. Season pork with salt and pepper and grill for 8 to10 minutes, turning once.

Nutrition Facts

Calories	*150*	*calories*
Sodium	*380*	*milligrams*
Protein	*16*	*grams*
Cholesterol	*40*	*milligrams*
Fat	*5*	*grams*

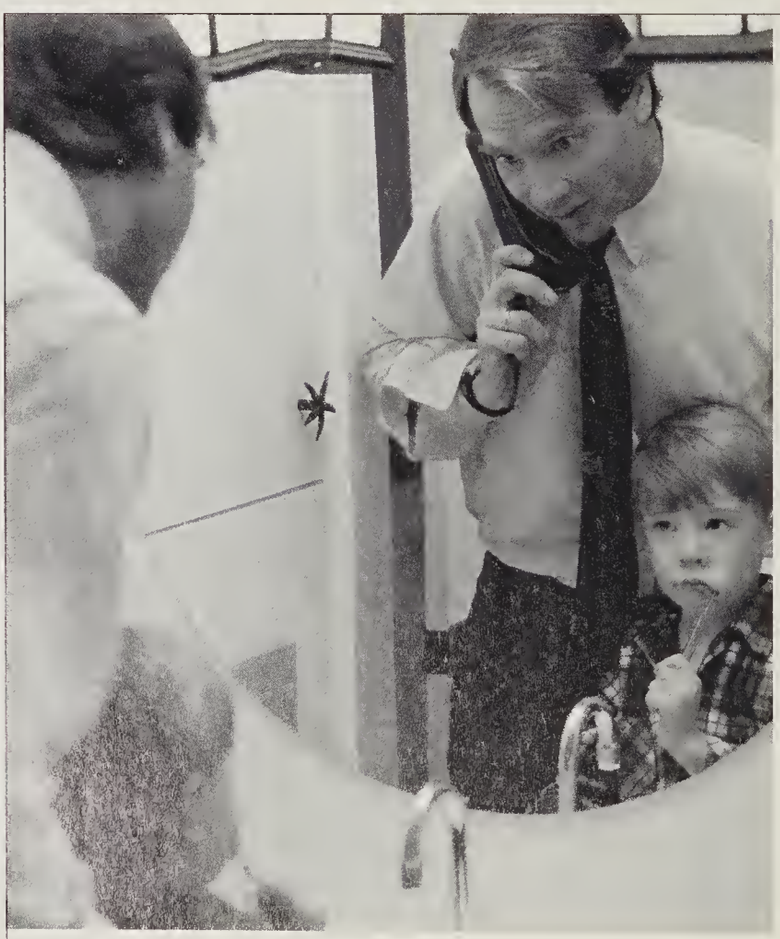
Grilled Honey-Glazed Cinnamon Apples

1 cup butter
1-½ tablespoons cinnamon
3 tablespoons honey
4 Granny Smith apples, cored and sliced ¼ inch thick
Dash salt and ground black pepper

In a small saucepan, heat butter, cinnamon and honey over low heat until melted, stirring constantly. Season apples with salt and pepper; place slices on hot grill. Grill apples slices about 2 minutes on each side while brushing with butter mixture.

Nutrition Facts

Calories	*260*	*calories*
Sodium	*0*	*milligrams*
Protein	*1*	*grams*
Cholesterol	*60*	*milligrams*
Fat	*23*	*grams*



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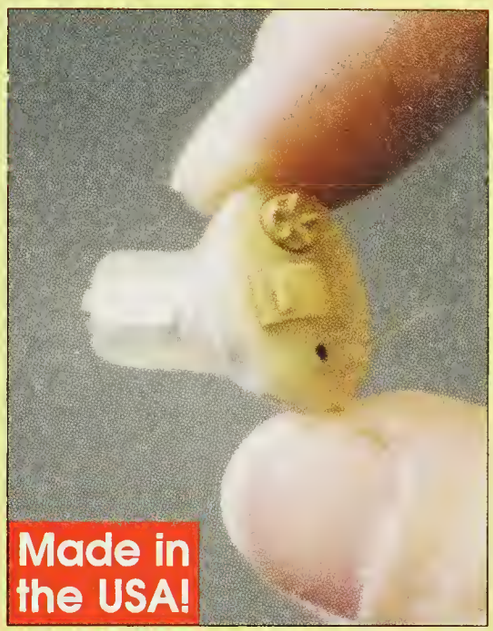

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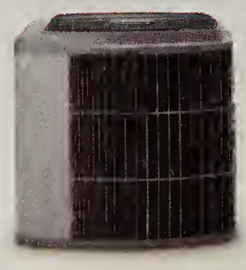

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